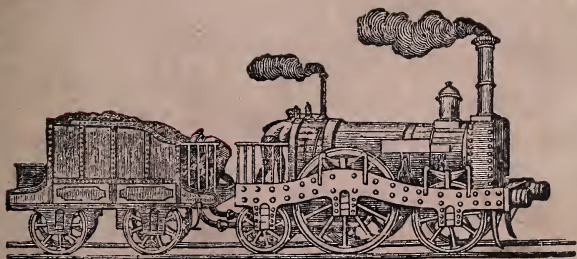


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# COPLEY'S GUIDE

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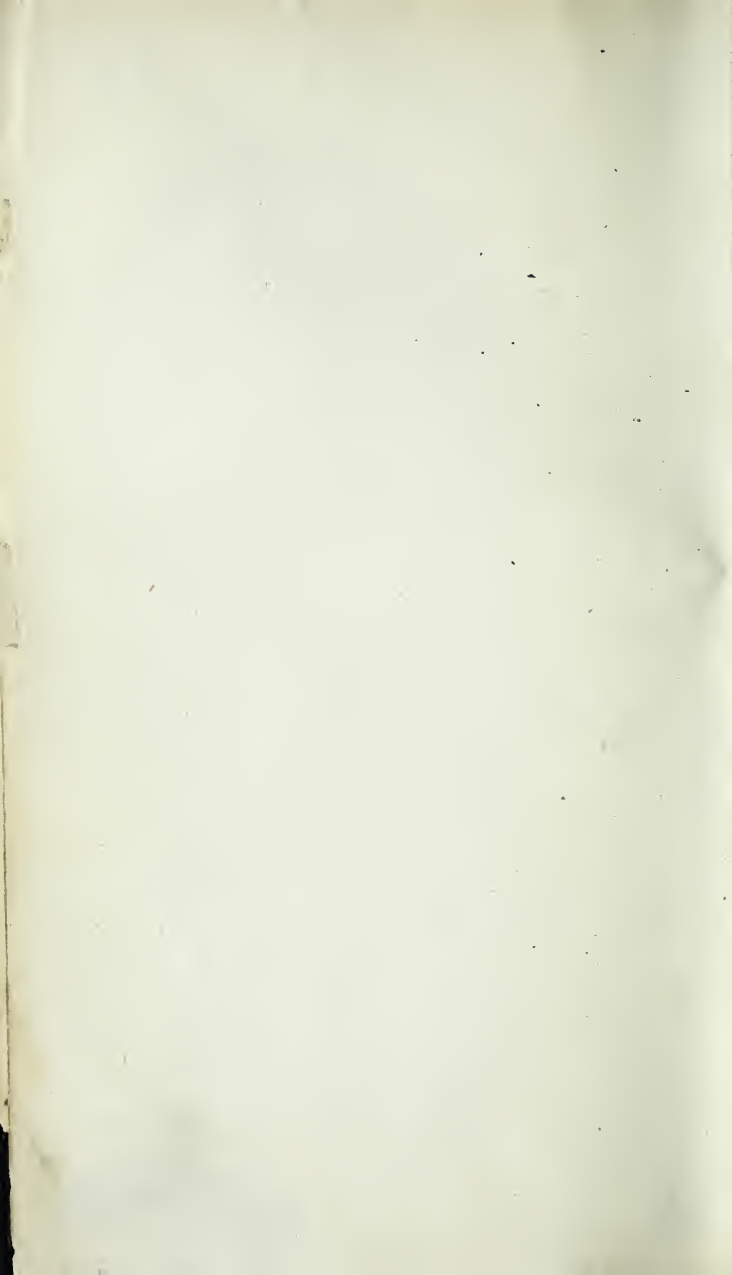
**WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT AND  
COOLE RAILWAY.**

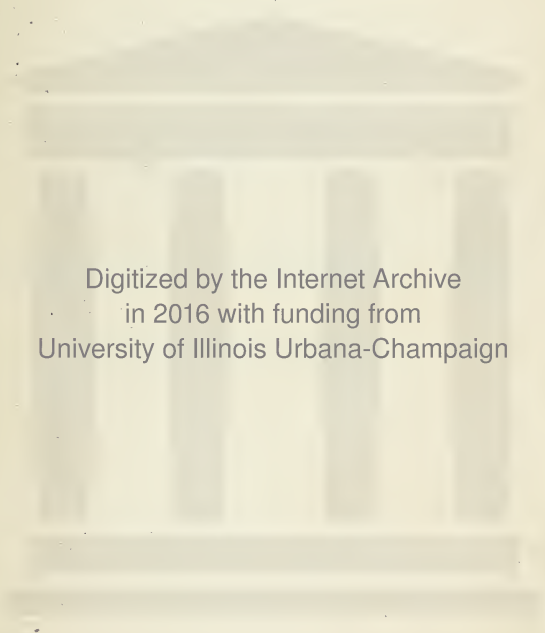
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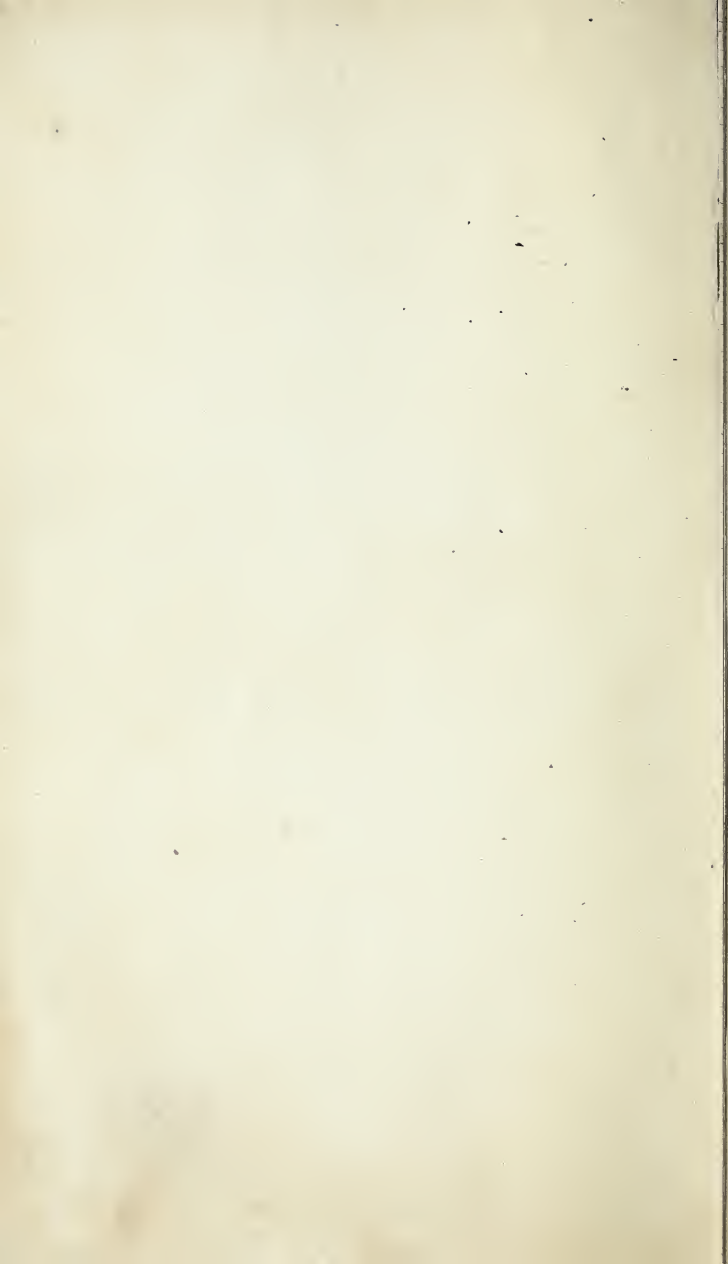


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AN  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE

GUIDE

TO THE  
WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT, AND  
GOOLE RAILWAY.

BY GEORGE FOX COPLEY.

PONTEFRACT:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY G. F. COPLEY,  
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## P R E F A C E.

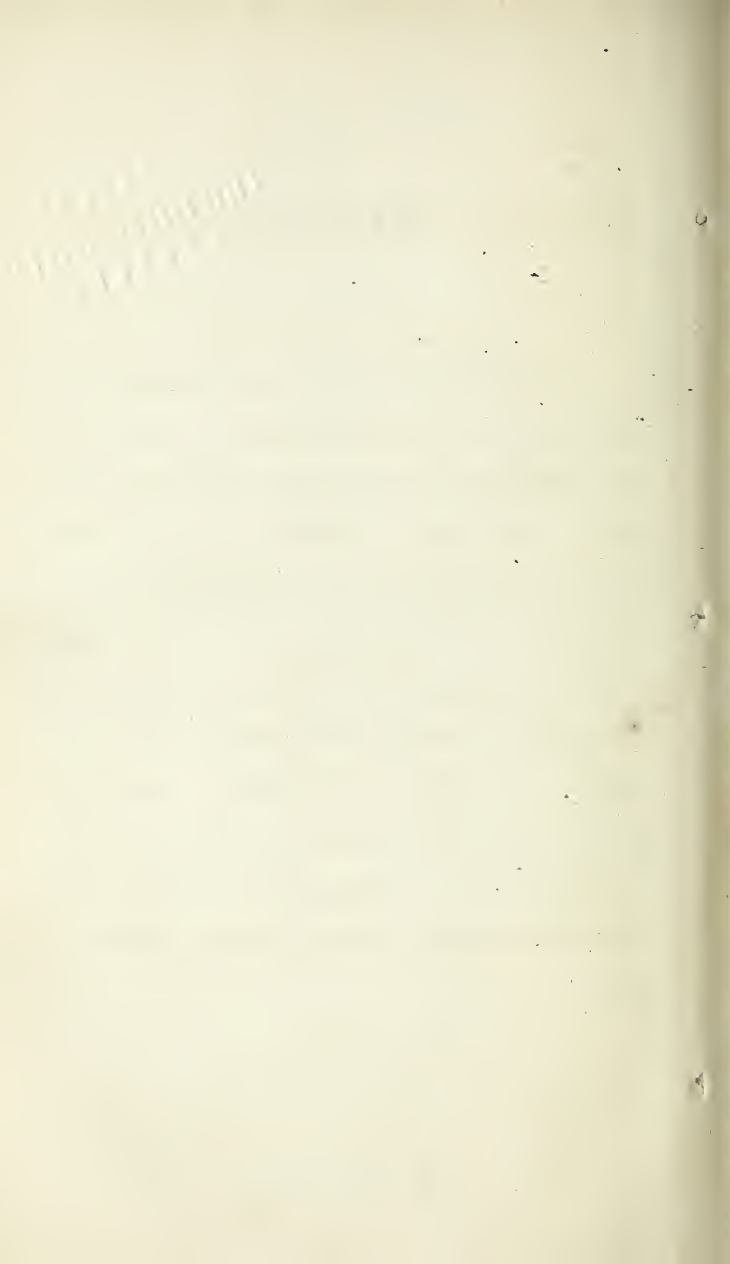
IN publishing this little work, the Author feels actuated by a desire to lay before his readers, such matter both historical and descriptive, connected with the Wakefield, Pontefract and Goole Railway, as will he trusts prove in some degree both interesting and instructive;—will serve to pass away an idle hour in the Railway Train,—and not be unacceptable at the fireside. Its limits preclude the possibility of inserting minute details of every object which may be seen from the said Railway. Everything of particular interest is however noticed, and of Pontefract Castle or as it was formerly termed, “The Key of the North” such account is given as he hopes will repay a perusal.

P 52505

A. McK 8 n 26

14 Sept 26 Clark

Commerce



# WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT, AND GOOLE RAILWAY.

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## Committee on Standing Orders.

*Chairman*—SIR JOHN YARDE BULLER,

## Commons' Committee.

*Chairman*—MR. PAKINGTON (Droitwich.)

LORD SEYMOUR (Totness.)

MR. BOUVERIE (Kilmarnock.)

MR. WHITMORE (Bridgenorth.)

MR. MAXWELL (Cavan.)

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*Chairman*—LORD MONTEAGLE.

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## Promoters.

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JOHN SCHOLEY, Esq., Wakefield.

*Engineer*—JOHN HARRIS, Esq., Darlington.

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*Contractor*—JOSEPH THORNTON, Esq., Kettlethorpe-Hall.

*Acting Directors*—R. BUCHANAN (Chairman)

AND W. MOXON, Esqs.

#### *Opposition.*

*Parliamentary Agents*—MESSRS. BURKE, PRITT, AND  
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#### *Counsel.*

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MR. ALEXANDER, Q.C.

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*Solicitors*—MESSRS. RICHARDSON & GUTCH, York.

*Engineers*—ROBT. STEPHENSON, Esq., & J. C.

BIRKENSHAW, Esq.

## THE PROJECTION OF THE LINE, &c.

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The WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT AND GOOLE RAILWAY was projected at a Public Meeting held in the Town-Hall, Pontefract, in the month of September 1844, (for the purpose of obtaining Railway communication to the town,) and was strenuously advocated by George Fox and Wm. Moxon, Esquires, of Pontefract. Preliminary steps were taken to place the Undertaking in the hands of some competent Manager, and Plans and Sections, were drawn up by the above gentlemen, and were successively presented to E. B. Denison, Esq., of the London and York; Major Amsinck, of the Direct Northern; and Geo. Hudson, Esq., of the Midland; but being unsuccessful in gaining their assistance, the projectors sought the aid of Captain Laws, on behalf of the Manchester and Leeds Railway Company, and in conjunction with that Company, the Bill was introduced into Parliament on the 2nd day of the Session of 1845, being the first Bill brought before the Standing Orders Committee, was four days before the said Committee, four days engaged on the Clauses, eighteen days before the Committee of the House of Commons, nine days before the House of Lords, was unanimously passed by both Houses of Parliament, and received the Royal Assent on the 31st day of July, 1845, after encountering, in every stage of its progress, the most deter-

mined but unsuccessful opposition, from the York and North Midland Railway Company, as the promoters of a competing Line called the Brayton and Goole, which was thrown out.

The estimated expense of making the said Railway was £365,000, viz. :—

	£.	s.	d.
Cost of Land.....	52,944	0	0
Fencing, including Gates and Draining .....	13,707	5	0
Earthworks.....	97,813	0	2
Crossings and Road Gates.....	5,257	0	0
Rails .....	54,390	0	0
Sleepers .....	20,707	12	0
Wood Keys.....	1,018	7	0
Chairs .....	12,705	0	0
Wood Piles.....	731	2	0
Ballast, Carriage of Materials, and Road Laying .....	24,613	6	6
Contingencies, including Stations	20,306	19	0

Divided into 7,300 Shares of £50 each ; the Manchester and Leeds Railway Company agreeing to subscribe half the capital. It is set forth in the Act of Parliament that £10 per Share shall be the greatest amount of one Call which the Company shall make upon the Shareholders ; and three-fifths of the amount of a share shall be the utmost aggregate amount of Calls that may be made in any one year upon any Share ; and three months at least shall be the interval between successive Calls. The Directors were Ten, five appointed by the Shareholders exclusive of the Manchester and Leeds Company, and the

other five by the Manchester and Leeds Company. A Director must be a Shareholder possessed of 35 Shares. The first Directors of the Company were Henry Holdsworth, Robert Gill, Chiesman Henry Binstead, Samuel Brooks, and John Milligan Laws, Robert Buchanan, William Moxon, James Audus, Jeremiah Bourn Faviell, and Edward Harper, Esquires. Secretary, George Fox, Esq. After the amalgamation of this Company with the Manchester and Leeds, the following Directors of the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Railway, viz. : Robert Buchanan, William Moxon, Ralph Creyke, James Audus, and Edward Harper, Esqs., were elected Directors of the Manchester and Leeds Railway. Joseph Thornton, Esq., of Kettlethorpe Hall, near Wakefield, was the Contractor for the formation of the Line, and competent judges declare it to be *one of the soundest and best made Lines in the kingdom*. Its characteristic gradient is 1 in 150. It commences in a Junction with the Main Line of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, at the Station of the same Railway at Wakefield, and passes through or near to, the following places :—Wakefield, Stanley, Stanley-cum-Wrenthorpe, Sandal Magna, Warmfield, Warmfield-cum-Heath, Sandal, Walton, Heath, Normanton, Oakenshaw, Crofton, Sharlston, Snydale, Featherstone, Pontefract Park District, Tanshelf, Pontefract, Monkhill, Ferryfryston or Ferrybridge, Knottingley, Beall, Kellington Egborough, Hensall, Heck, Gowdall, Snaith, and Cowick, Rawcliffe, Armin, Hock and Goole. There are two Branches diverging out of the Main Line near Goole. One exclusively for the Coal Traffic, running up to a spacious new Dock, constructed by the Aire and Calder Company for the use of the Railway. The other for merchandise, leading to the old Docks and principal Warehouses.

The Methley and Askern Branches will be noticed in the succeeding pages. If the said Railway had not been complete within three years from the passing of the Act, the powers granted to the Company for executing the Railway would cease to be exercised, except as to so much of the Railway as had then been completed. Every Passenger travelling upon the Railway may take with him his ordinary luggage, not exceeding one hundred pounds in weight for First Class Passengers, sixty pounds in weight for Second Class Passengers, and forty pounds in weight for Third Class Passengers, without any charge being made for the carriage thereof.





## THE COURSE OF THE LINE.

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**Wakefield Station.**—THE WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT, AND GOOLE RAILWAY commences at the Wakefield Station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, in a district abounding with extensive Coal mines, and after passing the curve, at a distance of about half a mile from the Station, it crosses the river Calder; the Locks in this vicinity now bear the name of “*The Fallen Locks*,” to commemorate the number of slain who fell in a great battle that was fought upon this spot, between the Parliamentarians and the Royalists, in the time of Charles I. The Mills to the right, are called the *Low Mills*, immediately after passing which, we are within sight of the Village of SANDAL to the right, and the tottering remains of its once magnificent Castle may be seen from the Railway, on a slight elevation at the distance of one mile.

**Sandal Magna** is a place of great antiquity, and was long the baronial seat of the Lords of Wakefield, of whom John Plantagenet, the last Earl of Warren, erected a strong Castle here about the year 1420, which, in the Reign of Edward III., was occupied by Edward Baliol, one of the competitors for the throne of Scotland. The Castle which was strongly fortified, became the property of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, who fell in the Battle of

Wakefield, in 1460, and was subsequently the residence of his son Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and afterwards Richard III. During the war in the Reign of Charles I., it most stubbornly held out for the King, but, ultimately, like its neighbour Pomfret Castle, was surrendered to the Parliamentary forces, and in the following year it was totally demolished by order of the Government. So little remains that it scarcely serves to point out the site.

Between the Railway and the village, and about two hundred yards from the Rails, can be seen *Belle Vue*, the seat of Joseph Holdsworth, Esq.; *Castle Grove* and *Sandal Park*, two delightful abodes, are also in the immediate neighbourhood.

A short distance further, and we cross the Weeland Turnpike Road, close to Agbrigg Bar, and almost immediately after, we cross the Barnsley Canal, having a delightful view of HEATH, in the Parish of Warmfield or Kirkthorpe to the left, which is celebrated for the excellent quality of its water. The turrets seen at the distance of three quarters of a mile, are a part of *Heath Old Hall*, which was formerly a Nunnery, but is now a Boarding School for young ladies; it is delightfully situated upon the Banks of the Calder, amid the most luxurious clusters of foliage, and is certainly a most delightful place of residence for its fair inhabitants.

The Building upon the summit of the commanding hill in the distance is a Summer House, and the hill from its attractive situation, extensive prospect and agreeable walks, bears the appellation of "*Mount Pleasant*," and many are the good folks of Wakefield who resort thither

to spend a few pleasant hours, when free from the trammels of business.

**Heath** is remarkable for the salubrity of its air, and for the beauty of its situation on an acclivity, rising from the border of an extensive and verdant plain. *Heath Hall*, a very slight portion of which may be seen from the Railway, is a handsome mansion of stone, in a tastefully embellished demesne, and late the residence of the Hon. J. Smyth, who by his great interest and indefatigable exertions opened the Franchise for the Borough of Pontefract; and is now the seat of his grandson, J. G. Smyth, Esq.

*Beach Lawn*, the seat of Mrs. Leatham, and *Heath House*, the seat of W. H. Leatham, Esq., are also elegant mansions in the neighbourhood.

After leaving *Oakenshaw Wood* to the left we pass under the Midland Railway, and it is near this point the Wakefield and Doncaster Branch of the Great Northern was intended to join the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Railway.

After leaving the Midland Bridge, and while passing along the embankment, *Walton Hall* may be seen to the right, the seat of Chas. Waterton, Esq., Author of a volume of "Essays on Natural History," and "Wanderings in South America." Soap and Alkali Works were established in Walton in 1820.

Now we arrive at the Village of CROFTON, which is pleasant and well-built, and has an ever-flowing fountain in its centre. Dr. Richard Fleming, Founder of Lincoln

College, Oxford, was a native of this place ; the remains of his arms, carved in stone, still appear over the entrance of the Porch of the present Church. *Crofton Hall*, is the residence of Edward Tew, Esq.

EDWARD ROYD WOOD now stands to the right, and behind which lies *Sharlston Hall*, the estate of the Earl of Westmoreland, and *Nostell Park*, the seat of Chas. Winn, Esq. with some extensive Coal Mines in the district.

The Village of NORMANTON and its noted Station lying to the left at the distance of about two miles.

After passing the STREET-HOUSE BAR of the Weeland Turnpike Road, we observe a hill to the left, which is called *Mill Hill*, and at a short distance further on may be seen the chimnies of *Snydale Hall*, the handsome residence of Mark Faviell, Esq., beyond which is *Ackton Hall*, the seat of Arthur Heywood, Esq. This place was called *Aikton*, probably a corruption of *Oak Town*, from the number of oak trees growing in its vicinity. *Aikton Hall* was purchased by Langdale Sunderland, Esq., of Halifax, one of the worthies who followed the fortunes of Charles I., who raised a Troop of Horse for his Majesty's service, and was at the Battle of Marston Moor ; Oliver Cromwell fined him £878.

The next Village to the right is PURSTON JACKLING, or PEERSTON JAGLIN, pleasantly situated on the road to Wakefield. *Purston Lodge* is the residence of Thomas Hall, Esq. Behind Purston Jackling, at a short distance, lies *Ackworth Park*, the seat of John Gully, Esq.

We arrive next at the Village of FEATHERSTONE, something more than half-a-mile to the left; here Coal is found in great abundance; the Church is a small ancient edifice, and contains a monument to a descendant of General Fairfax, Cromwell's right arm. The first Farm House to the right is called *Monkroyd*, and the one next in rotation, upon the summit of a noble hill, surrounded by a large tract of richly cultivated land, is *King's Villa*, the residence of Joseph Bottomley, Esq., who is allowed by competent judges, to be one of the best Farmers in Yorkshire.

The large hill to the left which has been in sight sometime, is *Pontefract Park Hill*, behind which is an immense space of ground with many noble trees, a once splendid race-course, and the remains of a very neat and commodious Grand Stand. After clearing the cutting we pass under the Pontefract and Leeds Turnpike Road, which has been raised from the level of the Rails.

### PONTEFRACT.



The Traveller has now, for some distance, a delightful view of the Town of PONTEFRACT, so famed in history for the loyalty of its Inhabitants, in the defence of their magnificent Castle during the civil wars. Poets and historians

appear to have vied with each other in describing its many pleasing as well as barbarous associations. The poet Lund, who was a Barber, born in Pontefract, says,

'If situation hath a power to please,  
 If air salubrious can give us ease,  
 If spacious streets and handsome houses join'd  
 Can satisfaction raise within the mind;  
 If noble ruins mouldering fast with rust,  
 Where ancient monarchs mingle with the dust,  
 If gardens all around can please the eyes,  
 Embellished o'er with Flora's painted dyes;  
 If peace and plenty which doth here abide,  
 (Laying all pique and prejudice aside)  
 If charms as these are worthy of my song  
 Come here, ye grave, ye gay, ye old, ye young,  
 Come here and view the subject of my theme,  
 Confess that Pomfret's worthy your 'esteem.'

The Town sits on a noble rocky eminence, approached to on every side by a considerable ascent, affording from every point a prospect to the Traveller, at once pleasing and picturesque. From its site, on a fine day, may be distinctly seen, the stately turrets of York Cathedral; the towns of Malton, Selby, and Howden; Brayton Bargh, and Hambleton Haugh; the Wolds, and the towering hills of Derbyshire stretching along the horizon in grand succession. A celebrated historian adds, "the intermediate portion of the landscape is a combination of the rich and beautiful; sparkling hamlets and straggling cottages, which bespeak cleanliness and comfort, abound on every side, whilst the seats of opulent nobles rise amid the embrowned groves, adding fresh beauties to the scenery. The disfigured fortress rising majestically on its rugged seat, arrests the traveller's attention; whilst the imagination luxuriates into a thousand elevated contemplations, and the mind recognizes the progressive stride of time." Another says, "let a Surveyor set his centre at Pontefract or thereabouts, and in the circumference of twenty miles, he will there meet with a tract of ground, not exceeded by any, or even equalled for its production



of goodness and plenty in some commodities, nay he would even term it the Garden of England, but that it is so far from that Mansion House, the City of London. Liquorice though not a native of this country is here planted in large gardens and flourishes to a great extent. It only becomes fit for use at its third year's growth, and from its roots are manufactured the celebrated Pomfret Cakes, which are considered an effectual remedy in cases of cold, hoarseness, &c. &c.

### The Castle.

The first and most important object that should claim the Traveller's attention, is that noble relic of Pomfret's former prowess, the decayed and crumbling Keep of the Round Tower of its once magnificent and almost impregnable Castle, frowning from its rocky eminence, a short distance from the Railway Station at Monkhill, with a commanding prospect over the surrounding country, on every side except the south, where the eye rests upon Baghill Rock, which rises within musket shot of the Castle, and is equal if not superior to it in height. The base of the Castle on this side, being the most favourable to the Besiegers, was fortified by several strongly built turrets, flanked by a deep broad ditch called the *Fosse*.

The foundation of this magnificent structure has been variously ascribed, by some, to have been by the Saxons; by others, the Romans; but in the chartular of Kirkstall Abbey, it is distinctly stated to have been built by Hyldebert or Ilbert de Lasey, a renowned Baron in the army of William the Conqueror, who, when he laid the foundation stone, called the Town *Pontfreit* or *Pontfrete*, from its close resemblance to the Norman Town, Pontfrete

where he was born. He rebuilt with freestone the *Round Tower*, which stands on the Eastern end of the North Wall, forming embrasures or crennels in the walls, through which the Cross-bowmen might let loose their bolts from the arblast, or point their deadly cannon. Admission to inspect the Ruins, may be gained by applying at the little cottage near the garden gates, belonging to the Castle, opposite to Baghill.

The approach to the *Keep* of the Round Tower, although



now much decayed and in a totally ruinous condition, is peculiarly grand and impressive, and powerfully recalls to memory, the times when 'Princes sat where nettles grow.'

A great portion of the

Keep, preserved by the clustering ivy, whose fibres seem to have crept around it with solicitous care, rises majestically alone, and seems yet to dare the slow but sure and rude desolating hand of time.

Fragments of massive walls, and broken arches clothed with moss, are promiscuously interspersed amongst the towering ashes and spreading briars; and the thistle now rears its head, where once the mailed foot of chivalry resounded. The brambles which partly cover the fallen fragments of the Castle, prevent intrusion; but for what purpose can the prying eye of curiosity employ itself in minutely examining these chaotic remains of faded greatness? The scattered ruins convey but an imperfect idea of the plan and distribution of the buildings, in its pristine grandeur; and busy conjecture employs herself in vain.



The eye, lost in amazement, wanders over the mighty fabric ; whilst invention feels incapable of tracing its former magnificence, in its crumbling desolate state. The attention of the Traveller is powerfully arrested, and his imagination soars away from these nodding ruins to days gone by, when the fierce conflicts of rival princes, or of feudal chieftains, levelled alike the noble fortress and the hallowed fane.

In surveying these ruins, there is observable, the remains of a small arched chamber, situated northwards of the Keep, where tradition asserts, that the unfortunate monarch Richard II. met his untimely fate ; on viewing which, the Traveller is received with the horrid tale of murdered royalty, and the piteous welcome of ‘Beyond yon darksome tower, come you to bear witness of our sad memento, to vent with us the unavailing curse, on those who have stained our ground with princely blood.’ Near to this tower, is a subterraneous place of immense depth, having its sides lined with stone, and containing a very high arch, formed on the side next to the steps.

On entering the mound or keep, there is a steep flight of steps ascending to the top ; on gaining which, the remains of a great staircase appear on the right, which probably communicated to the state apartments above, which were very large, and accommodated with offices, suitable for the residence of a prince. A small square room lighted only by one outlet of a diminutive size, is situated a little further to the westward in one of the towers. This room was very probably designed for the Captain of the Guard, as Leland notes it to have been here ; and the tower beneath it is a solid mass, which is a corroboration of the strength of this vast fabric, as well as of the safeguard of the mound. A very singular and

irregular winding flight of steps crumbling into ruins, extends from a small sallyport, to the doorway leading into the mound. The passage is about eight feet wide, and when you have descended about fourteen steps, a branch of nine steps is perceivable to the right ; whilst another of about twelve steps turns leftward, and ends in a square place, similar to a well, and a dismal dungeon. Through the mouldering fortification, which runs from the mounds northwards, is a loop or chink of not less than eighteen feet in thickness. In one side of the Keep is formed a dismal square cavity, about fifteen feet deep, and five or six feet square ; and to this place no outward door seems ever to have had any communication. It has not the appearance of a staircase, nor is it possible that it can ever have been used for any other purpose, than rigorous and severe confinement. It answers to the description, given by Sallust of the Roman Tullianum, and must have been, previously to the demolition of the upper part of the Castle, a very dismal place.

In the magazine which is situated near the barbican, are cut innumerable initials ; and on the sides of the passages leading to it, amongst many other names are the following :—

ROG	James	16 GEO 41	1648
PREST	Provston 1648	BEALE	JOHN GRANT
164	J. G. R. E. S.		

The breast of the antiquarian may heave with sorrow, when he beholds such stupendous fabrics, which had braved the crash of thunder and the warring winds, levelled with the plain by mortal power, and sunk in silence ; yet, when he reflects that they rose the pride of tumultuous chieftains, and were receptacles for licensed

robbers, who gave to their rapine, the title of attachment to party,—when he considers, that they were the causes of general disorder, neglecting of tillage, destruction of implements of husbandry, and the prime spring of terrible famines, which at once oppress the victor and the vanquished—he will then rejoice to know that these are fleeting dreams, and that he lives at a period when equal rights and liberties are in the possession of the peasant as well as the prince.

The following interesting lines were written by Dr. Langhorn, in the year 1756, amongst the ruins of the Castle :

Right sung the bard, that all-involving age,  
 With hand impartial, deals the ruthless blow ;  
 That war, wide-wasting, with impetuous rage,  
 Lays the tall spire, and sky-crowned turret low.

A pile stupendous, once of fair renown,  
 This mouldering mass of shapeless ruin rose,  
 Where nodding heights of fractured columns frown,  
 And birds obscure in ivy bowers repose.

Oft the pale matron from the threatening wall,  
 Suspicious, bids her heedless children fly ;  
 Oft, as he views the meditated fall,  
 Full swiftly steps the frightened peasant by.

But more respectful views th' historic sage,  
 Musing, these awful relics of decay,  
 That once a refuge formed from hostile rage,  
 In Henry's and in Edward's dubious day.

He pensive oft reviews the mighty dead,  
 That erst have trod this desolated ground ;  
 Reflects how here unhappy Salisbury bled,  
 When faction aimed the death-dispensing wound.

Rest, gentle Rivers ! and ill-fated Gray !  
 A flower or tear oft strews your humble grave,  
 Whom Envy slew, to pave Ambition's way,  
 And whom a monarch wept in vain to save.

Ah ! what avail'd th' alliance of a throne ?  
 The pomp of titles what, or power revered ?  
 Happier ! to these the humble life unknown,  
 With virtue honoured and by peace endeared.

Had thus the sons of bleeding Britain thought,  
 When hapless here inglorious Richard lay,  
 Yet many a prince, whose blood full dearly bought  
 The shameful triumph of the long-sought day ;

Yet many a hero, whose defeated hand  
 In death resigned the well-contested field,  
 Had in his offspring saved a sinking land,  
 The Tyrant's terror, and the Nation's shield.

Ill could the muse indignant grief forbear,  
 Should Memory trace her bleeding Country's woes ;  
 Ill could she count, without a bursting tear,  
 Th' inglorious triumphs of the varied Rose !

While York, with conquest and revenge elate,  
 Insulting, triumphs on St. Alban's plain,  
 Who views, nor pities Henry's hapless fate, ;  
 Himself a captive, and his leaders slain ?

Ah prince ! unequal to the toils of war,  
 To stem ambition, Faction's rage to quell ;  
 Happier ! from these had fortune placed thee far,  
 In some lone convent, or some peaceful cell.

For what availed that thy victorious queen  
 Repaired the ruins of that dreadful day !  
 That vanquished York, on Wakefield's purple green,  
 Prostrate amidst the common slaughter lay ?

In vain fair Victory beamed the gladdening eye,  
 And, waving oft her golden pinions, smiled ;  
 Full soon the flattering goddess meant to fly,  
 Full rightly deemed unsteady fortune's child.

Let Towten's field—but cease the dismal tale ;  
 For much its horrors would the Muse appal  
 In softer strains suffice it to bewail  
 The Patriot's exile, or the Hero's fall.

Thus silver Wharf, whose crystal sparkling urn  
 Reflects the brilliance of his blooming shore,  
 Still, melancholy-mazing, seems to mourn,  
 But rolls, confused, a crimson wave no more.

The soul-stirring verses, written by Francis Drake, S.T.P., Lecturer, of Pontefract, 1750, are deemed of too great interest to be omitted :

## ON PONTEFRACT CASTLE.

Look round this vast and venerable place,  
Whose ruined pile still shines with awful grace,  
Yet nobly great, 'midst all its faded charms :  
See the wide waste of all-consuming age,  
The wreck of ruthless wars, and hostile rage,  
And all the dire effects of more than civil wars.

View savage time with cankering tooth devour  
The solid fabric of yon mouldering tower,  
Which now in undistinguished chaos lies ;  
Where erst the noble Lascy's Norman line  
Planned the wide work, and formed the vast design,  
And bid with Gothic race, the stately structure rise.

When lo ! on high the vaulted domes suspend,  
On lofty columns the wide arches bend,  
And massive walls the vast domain inclose ;  
In vain the hostile warriors nervous art  
With missive fire directs the barbed dart,  
Or with enormous strength the ponderous javelin throws.

For many an age the Lascy's noble race,  
With arms, and arts, adorned the splendid place, !  
As heroes triumphed, or as patriots shone ;  
Till with the great Plantagenet's fair bride,  
In nuptial dower these ancient honors glide,  
The seat of future kings, that graced the British throne.

On yonder hill, as early annals tell,  
The holy hero and the martyr fell,  
Which still great Lancaster thy memory bears.  
There 'midst the saints enrolled with rites divine,  
The pious pilgrim sought the sacred shrine,  
And bathed thy hallowed tomb, with sympathizing tears.

With holy zeal, and blameless morals armed,  
With all the power of conscious virtue warmed,  
'Midst death's sad scenes, the pious patriot smiles ;  
By thee proud Mortimer the hoary sage  
Bleeds the sad victim of thy brutal rage  
Lost by thy lawless love, and all a woman's wiles.

Look there, where erst, yon mouldering turret stood,  
 Whose moss-grown stones are tinged with royal blood ;  
 'Midst civil broils the hapless Richard bled,  
 There cruel Exton's vile assassin dart,  
 With bloody treason pierced the monarch's heart,  
 And fixed the tottering crown on haughty Henry's head.

Here vaunting Bolingbroke, thy feeble foe,  
 Felt in each whispering breeze the fatal blow,  
 Or heard death's herald in each guilty stone—  
 Short is the date of captive monarch's doom  
 'Twixt the dark prison and the yawning tomb ;  
 For bold ambition bears no rival to the throne.

See yonder tower still blush with crimson stains  
 That flowed in plenteous store from noble veins,  
 Where Vaughan, and Grey, by Gloster's arts expired;  
 Where Rivers fell, who with his latest breath  
 These mournful mansions dignified in death,  
 With love of letters warm'd, and dawning science fired.

'Midst the wild flames, that civil discord spread,  
 When by base arts the royal martyr bled,  
 Still loyal Pomfret spurned the tyrants' hate,  
 Last in these northern climes that scorned to pay,  
 A servile homage to his lawless sway,  
 And in inglorious case survive the monarch's fate.

Long haughty Lambert did thy veteran powers  
 With iron tempest shake the solid towers,  
 And round the walls the missive murder send,  
 In vain brave Morrice did thy martial train  
 With loyal arms the hostile shocks sustain,  
 And 'gainst rebellious sons these loyal domes defend.

Hark ! the loud engines tear the trembling walls  
 And from its base the massive fabric falls,  
 And all at once these ancient honors fade,  
 These lofty towers, and all these royal spoils  
 Sink into silence, 'midst intestine broils  
 In prostrate ruins lost, and dark oblivion laid.

'Twas in this Castle, Margaret, the Queen of Edward I.  
 resided, while the King was engaged in an expedition to  
 Scotland. Several of the nobility who attended her, fond  
 of the chase, were hunting in the neighbourhood and

while enjoying the sport herself, she was taken ill, and safely delivered of her fifth son at Brotherton, a village on the left of the Railway when travelling from Pontefract to Knottingley. - The Royal Infant, at her desire, was called Thomas de Brotherton. The house in which tradition states Thomas to have been born, was near the church of Brotherton, within an inclosure of about twenty acres, surrounded by a trench and a wall, and the tenants are obliged by the tenure of their land, to keep this part surrounded by a wall of stone.

On the death of Henry de Lascy, the Castle of Pontefract, with the whole estate of the Lascies, were transferred in the proper form of conveyance, to Thomas Earl of Lancaster, who had married Alice, the only surviving branch of the noble family of the Lascies. The Castle of Pontefract then became the baronial mansion of this illustrious warrior, who was the son of Edmund, who was the fifth son of Henry III.

'Twas during this period that Lancaster, enraged at the presumption and audacity of Gaveston the favourite of Edward the II. and joined by many of the leading nobles of the day assembled an army and marched to Newcastle where the King and Gaveston had retired, when the latter after many narrow escapes was obliged to surrender himself a prisoner to Guy, Earl of Warwick, and was conveyed by him to Dedington Castle, where he was tried, condemned and executed as a public enemy. His death appeared to give general satisfaction, but the King vowed vengeance against the Barons who had condemned him. He admitted the Spencers to his favour in the place of Gaveston, thereby giving new cause for complaint to many of the nobles, which resulted in a demand for the removal of the Spencers from power, but the King not readily complying



to their request, they again collected their forces, attacked the Castles of the Spencers, laid waste their lands, burnt their houses, and took away their cattle, which obliged the King to issue a proclamation, "That the Spencers would be accounted public enemies if seen in the kingdom after a certain date," whereupon the Barons retired to their Castles, but being doubtful of the Kings sincerity, still kept themselves in a posture of defence. Another outbreak which resulted from an insult offered to Edward's Queen, near Leeds, after much bloodshed terminated in Sir Andrew de Herckley taking Lancaster together with above a hundred Barons and Knights prisoners. The King being then at Pontefract, commanded that Lancaster and the other Lords should be brought before him, and accordingly on the 21st of March, Andrew de Herckley conveyed the Earl, together with Lords Warren, Mowbray, and others, to the Castle ; on approaching which, multitudes came out to meet them, and amongst them Lancaster's vassals, who scornfully taunted him with the name of King Arthur, the title which it is said he had assumed as his cypher in communicating with the Scots. He was put in the tower which (as Leland saith,) he had newly made towards the Abbey, and which, is very probable, was Swillington tower, as it seems to have been a place of rigorous confinement.

On the 22nd, being Monday, the Earl was brought in the hall of the Castle, before the King and a small number of Peers, viz. Edmund Earl of Kent, John Earl of Richmond, Aymer Earl of Pembroke, John Earl of Surrey, Edmund Earl of Arundale, Daria Earl of Athol, Robert Earl of Angos, the Lord Hugh Spencer the father, the Lord Robert de Malmesthorpe justice, and others ; and was arraigned of high treason, for raising war against his



Sovereign, destroying his subjects, and plundering their estates.

By a salutary severity to defend the throne from rebellion and contempt, he was adjudged to die, and sentence was then passed upon him by the justiciar and Sir Andrew Herekley, as against an arch traitor, that he should be drawn, hanged, and beheaded. On hearing which, he said, 'shall I die without answer'; when he was told that as there were undoubted proofs of his guilt, it was useless for him to speak in his defence.

'Neuerthesse for reuerence of his blood, (beinge the king's neere kinsman,) drawing and hanging were remitted vnto him, but his hedde was stricken off the same day withowt the town of Pontfract.' He was carried on a lean grey horse, without saddle or bridle, attired by a certain Gascoigne, with an old hat or hood on his head, and attended by a friar preacher by his side to the fatal hill, which lay a few hundred yards northwards, and in sight of his own Castle. At the scaffold he was pelted with mud, and assailed with the title of King Arthur, whilst he exclaimed 'King of heaven! grant me mercy, for the King of earth hath forsaken me.' When he knelt down before the block he turned his face to the east, and one Hugh de Mustin ordered him to turn it towards the north, that he might look towards his friends, and the executioner, a native of London, severed his head from his body. The prior and Monks of Pontefract then begged his body of the King, and buried it on the right hand of the high altar in the church of the priory.

Thus fell Thomas, the mighty Earl of Lancaster, the greatest peer of the realm, and one of the most powerful nobles in Christendom.

‘Sights of horror, sounds of woe,  
Mark the dire progress of the victor foe !  
The hardened soldier looks relentless on,  
And shouts triumphant o’er the expiring groan.’—

On the day of Lancaster’s execution, ‘that he mighte not seeme to die without a bloudy complement suitable to his condition ; there were hangid and quarterid at Pontefract, the Lords William Touchet, William Fitzwilliam, Warren de Lisle, Henry Bradborne, and William Cheney, Barons, and John Page, an Esquire.’

The remains of the noble Earl, are, from circumstances connected with his death and burial, fairly presumed to have been discovered by two labourers, on Monday the 25th of March, in the year 1822, in a field called the Paper Mill Field, lying near St. Thomas’ hill, in Pontefract. Should they be the identical relics of this once mighty prince, it is rather singular that five hundred years within three days should elapse from the time of his death to the discovery ; as he suffered decapitation on Monday the 22nd. of March, 1322, and his remains were discovered on Monday the 25th of March, 1822.

On the very day of Lancaster’s death, Edward conferred the Earldom of Carlisle on Sir Andrew de Herckley, at Pontefract Castle, for his services in captivating the Earl. This is the first creation of honour wherein the preamble importing the merits of the person so dignified was ever used, and beareth date at the Castle of Pontefract, March 25th. 1322.

Richard II. being deprived of his crown, was removed from the Tower to the Castle of Leeds, in Kent, and from thence to the Castle of Pontefract, which was deemed the best for secresy as well as security ; and where he could have no intercourse with his friends and partizans, and

Shakspeare thus elegantly describes the reflections of Richard whilst immured within its dreary walls.

‘I have been studying how to compare  
 This prison, where I live, unto the world ;  
 And, for because the world is populous,  
 And here is not a creature but myself,  
 I cannot do it ;—Yet I’ll hammer it out.  
 My brain I’ll prove the female to my soul ;  
 My soul, the father : and these two beget  
 A generation of still-breeding thoughts,  
 And these same thoughts people this world ;  
 In humours, like the people of this world,  
 For no thought is contented. The better sort,—  
 As thoughts of things divine, are intermix’d  
 With scruples, and do set the word itself  
 Against the word :  
 As thus,—*Come little ones ; and then again,—*  
*It is as hard to come, as for a Camel*  
*To thread the postern of a needle’s eye.*  
 Thoughts tending to ambition, they do plot  
 Unlikely wonders : how these vain weak nails  
 May tear a passage through the flinty ribs  
 Of this hard world, my ragged prison-walls ;  
 And, for they cannot, die in their own pride.  
 Thoughts tending to content, flatter themselves,—  
 That they are not the first of fortune’s slaves,  
 Nor shall not be the last ; like silly beggars,  
 Who, sitting in the stocks, refuge their shame,—  
 That many have, and others must sit there :  
 And in this thought they find a kind of ease,  
 Bearing their own misfortune on the back  
 Of such as have before endur’d the like.  
 Thus play I, in one person, many people,  
 And none contented . Sometimes am I a King :  
 Then treason makes me wish myself a beggar,  
 And so I am : Then crushing penury  
 Persuades me, I was better, when a King ;  
 Then am I King’d again ; and, by-and-by,  
 Think, that I am unking’d by Bolingbroke,  
 And straight am nothing :—But whate’er I am,  
 Nor I, nor any man, that but man is,  
 With nothing shall be pleas’d till he be eas’d  
 With being nothing.

Another writer saith, that King Henrie sitting one daie

at his table, sighing, said ; Hauē I no faithfull freend which will deliuer me of him, whose life will be my death ; and whose death will be the preseruatiō of my life ? This saieng was much noted of them which were present, and especially of one called Sir Piers of Exton. This Knight incontinentlie departed from the court, on the 5th. Feb. 1339, with eight strong persons in his companie, and came to Pomfret, commanding the esquier that was accustomed to sew and take the assaie to doo so no more, saieing, Let him eat now, for he shall not long eat. King Richard sat downe to dinner, and was serued without courtesie or assaie, whereupon much maruelling at the sudden change, he demanded of the esquier, whie he did not doo his duty ; ‘Sir, (said he,) I am otherwise commanded by Sir Piers of Exton, which is newlie come from King Henrie.’ When King Richard heard that woord, he took the carving knife in his hand, and struck the esquier on the head, saying, ‘The devil take Henry of Lancaster and thee together.’ And with that word, Sir Piers entered the chamber, well armed, with eight tall men likewise armed, each one having a bill in his hand.’

‘King Richard perceiuing this, put the table from him, and stepping to the foremost man, wrung the bill out of his hands, and so valiantlie defended himselfe, that he slue foure of the foremost. Sir Piers being half dismayed herewith, lept into the chaire where King Richard was wont to sit, while the other foure persons fought with him and chased him about the chamber until he came near the chaire where Sir Piers stood when he was felled with a stroke of a pollar, which Sir Piers gave him upon the head which killed him upon the spot, the 14th of February, 1399. It is said that Sir Piers of Exton, after he had thus slain him, wept right bitterlie, as one stricken with the

pricke of a giltie conscience, for murdering him whom he had so long time obeied as king.'

Before the unfortunate monarch breathed his last, he exclaimed, 'My great grandfather King Edward II. was in this manner deposed, imprisoned and murdered, by which means my grandfather, King Edward III. obtained possession of the crown, and now is the punishment of that injury, poured upon his next successor. Well, this is right for me to suffer, but not for you to do. Your King for a time, may joy at my death, and enjoy his desire, but let him qualify his pleasure with the expectation of the like justice, for God who measureth all our actions, by the malice of our minds, will not suffer this violence to go unrevenged

That hand shall burn in never quenching fire,  
That staggers thus my person.—Exton, thy fierce hand  
Hath with the King's blood stained the King's own land.  
Mount, mount my soul ! thy seat is upon high ;  
Whilst my gross flesh sinks downward, here to die.—SHAKSPEARE.

History tells us Henry I. spent a great part of his time at Pontefract Castle. He gained at Agincourt, on Friday, the 25th of October, 1415, the most complete and splendid victory that was ever recorded in historic annals, His prisoners were men of rank and fortune ; for many of the French nobility being on foot, and encumbered with heavy armour, were unable to make their escape. Amongst these were Charles Duke of Orleans, nephew of Charles VI. of France, John Duke of Bourbon, the Lord Bouciqualt, one of the Marshals of France, the Counts d'Eu, Vendome, Richemont, and Harcourt, and 1500 Barons, Knights, and gentlemen. The Duke of Orleans and his fellow prisoners lived at Windsor, and had their liberty upon parole, until the year 1417, when the treaty for their ransom not being effected, according to promise, they were

removed to Pontefract Castle, where they were kept close prisoners, at the King's request, who deemed the Duke of Orleans' detention most important to the safe keeping of his conquest in France. They were placed under the care of an Esquire named Robert Waterton, and obtained their liberty about the latter part of the year 1440, and the Duke's ransom was fixed at 120,000 crowns, as it appears from his own recognition of his liberty, dated 12th Nov. 1440.

In the year 1424, the Duke of Bedford released James I., the Young King of Scots, from his confinement in Pontefract Castle, after he had been a prisoner in England from the year 1406, on condition of his paying 40,000 marks, for the expense of his maintenance whilst in captivity.

The Battle of Wakefield was fought on the 31st of December, 1460. The Earl of Salisbury, Sir Ralph Stanley, Sir Richard Limbricke, John Harow, Captain Hanson, the Mayor of Hull, and many others were wounded, taken captive and sent in a bleeding condition to Pontefract Castle, where the Queen 'most unwomanlie, in cold blood caused them to be beheaded,' and their heads conveyed to York, and there set on poles at the gates of the city.

On the 22nd of July, 1466, Edward IV. removed the bones of his father from the Church of the Priory of St. John, at Pontefract, where they had been intombed, and placed them wrapped in a cloth of gold, and royal habit, in a chariot covered with black velvet, and drawn by seven horses trapped to the ground, covered with black, charged with escutcheons. Every horse carried a man, and on the foremost rode Sir John Skipwith, who bare the banner of the prince displayed. At the feet of the corpse stood a



white angel, bearing a crown of gold, to signify, that of right he was the King.

All the Bishops and mitred Abbots honoured this solemnity by their attendance. Dressed in their pontifical robes, they went two or three miles before the procession, to prepare and consecrate the churches for the reception of the corpse of the Prince. Richard Duke of Gloucester, followed next after the chariot, accompanied by the principal noblemen of the kingdom, and a number of officers at arms. In this order the procession departed from Pontefract, followed by an immense concourse of spectators, and the first night they reached Doncaster ; and from thence proceeded by easy journeys to Blythe, Tuxford, Newark, Stamford, and then to Fotheringay, where they arrived on July 29.

On the accession of Edward V. to the throne, being then only twelve years of age, the Duke of Gloucester, ambitious to secure the administration during his minority, gained his point by spending a very convivial evening with the young king at Stony-Stratford, for next morning the Earl Rivers, (uncle to the young King,) the Lord Richard Grey, (his brother by the mother's side,) Sir Thomas Vaughan, and Sir Richard Hawse, Knights, were made prisoners and sent to Pontefract Castle, where they were executed without form or trial, or being allowed to make the least defence, all their other attendants being dismissed, and a proclamation issued to forbid their appearance at court, under pain of death.

Richard III. having paved his way to the crown by a career of bloodshed and infamy, spent some time in Pontefract Castle. Shakspeare thus feelingly alludes to it in his play of Richard III. :

O Pomfret ! Pomfret ! thou bloody prison !  
Fatal and ominous to noble Peers :  
Within the guilty closure of thy walls  
Richard the Second here was hacked to death :  
And for more slander to thy dismal seat,  
We give to thee our guiltless blood to drink.'

Henry VII., Henry VIII., Edward VI., and King James VI. of Scotland, successively visited Pontefract Castle ; but this celebrated fortress seems to have sunk gradually into neglect, until the accession of Charles I. to the throne, when intestine broils rapidly increased, and Cromwell shewed his cloven foot ; at this time the King only possessed the Castles of York and Pontefract in the western parts. We cannot afford space to enter into particulars relative to the three sieges of Pontefract Castle, very minute and interesting details of which are published in *The History of Pontefract, by George Fox.*

The first siege commenced in August, 1644, and terminated in a defeat of the Parliamentarians, by General Langdale, on the 2nd March, 1645, being nearly eight months, during which period the garrison displayed the strongest proofs of a prudent and courageous spirit. They had slain nearly 500 of the Besiegers and taken about 1000 captive.

The second Siege commenced on the 28th of March, 1645, and on Sunday the 19th of July, each party met, and abating in their demands, a treaty was made and signed for the surrender of the Castle, upon honourable terms. Accordingly on the morrow, being Monday the 20th, the Castle was delivered up to Major General Poyntz, upon condition for the officers and soldiers to march away with their arms, drums beating and colours flying, and bullet in mouth, with six shot of powder, and bullet proportionable. The siege had lasted five months,



from the time it was relieved, and the enemy could not have lost fewer in killed and wounded, before this fortress, than a thousand men. The garrison had displayed a courage, which did equal honour to themselves and the cause they had espoused. Their sallies had been planned with judgment, and were executed with promptness, vigour, and success. Though on every hand surrounded by superior numbers of the enemy, and almost destitute of every necessary, they were not intimidated, nor could they be induced to make a disgraceful capitulation.

The following letter which the Speaker of the House of Commons received from the Committee at York, will give the terms on which the Castle was surrendered :

‘ The enemy in Pontefract Castle were last week summoned to surrender, which caused them to desire a treaty. Accordingly the Colonels Westhill, Copley, Overton, and Bright, were authorized to treat.

The Castle is to be delivered up to the Parliament tomorrow at eight o’clock, with every thing therein, save that the officers are allowed to carry away what is properly their own, so that it exceeds not what a cloak bag will contain, and the garrison are to march to Newark.

We are in treaty for Scarbro’, which we hope shortly will be reduced. This you will please communicate to the House, from

Sirs, &c.,

FRANCIS PIERREPOINT,  
WILFRED LAWSON,  
HENRY CHOLMLEY.

York, July 20, 1645.’

The Parliamentarians, it is believed, lost in killed and wounded four hundred and sixty-nine soldiers during this siege, whilst the besieged lost only ninety-nine persons,

including mēn, women, and children, who had fallen victims to other diseases, from the 24th of December, 1644, to the 19th July, 1645, the day previous to the surrender of the Castle.

The Castle having now fallen into the hands of the Parliamentarians, Col. Cotterel was appointed Governor; and Col. Morrice, a Royalist, under the pretence of sincere regard and confidence, so ingratiated himself into the good graces of Cotterel, that he was enabled on the morning of June 3rd, 1648, to allow a party of Royalists under the command of Capt. Thos. Paulden, to surprise and take possession of the Castle; after accomplishing which, he (Morrice) was appointed Governor, and a numerous body of noblemen and gentlemen soon flocked to his standard. We find that the Parliamentarians desperately incensed at the crafty manœuvre of Morrice, again appeared before the Castle, and on the 9th of October, determined to level it with the ground, commenced their work of destruction which terminated in a surrender of the Castle to the Besiegers, about the latter end of March, 1649, upon taking possession of which, they found provisions for two months, and 40 barrels of powder. General Lambert then dismantled it from being any more a garrison, and left standing, the stupendous remains in a forlorn condition, as introductory to its approaching dissolution.

‘Departed grandeur! could the stones assume  
Historic power to tell thy pristine fame,  
The torch of truth should thy dark reign illumine,  
And bright description kindle into flame.’—

‘Then each mute witness, hasting to decay,  
Might tell what scenes were whilom here display’d;  
What ancient dames here sung th’ heroic lay,  
Mov’d in the dance, or nightly masquerade.’—

A letter was sent from Knottingley, dated March 22nd, with the articles of agreement for the rendition of Pontefract Castle, which being read were approved of by the House; also, at the same time was read the Petition from the Aldermen and well affected Inhabitants of the Town of Pontefract for the like demolition of the said fortress; after which, it was resolved, 'that the Castle of Pontefract should be totally and forthwith demolished: that it be referred to a Committee of the West-Riding of the County of York, to see it levelled with the ground and rendered untenable. The sale of the materials of which, to go first to the charges of demolishing it; and, the value of £1000 of the remainder, to be allotted for the Town of Pontefract, towards the repairing of the place of public worship and the re-edifying an habitation for the minister.

### SALE OF MATERIALS OF THE CASTLE.

*5th of April, 1649.*

	£.	s.	d.
Monies received for lead .....	1540	7	2
Monies received for timber .....	201	7	10
Monies received for iron .....	37	2	4
Monies received for glass.....	1	0	0

---

£1779 17 4

---

The charge for demolishing.....	776	4	6
Monies allotted unto the town.....	1000	0	0
The rest due to the common wealth	2	12	10

---

£1779 17 4

---

*Debts owing for Materials, which are due unto the Common Wealth :*

	£.	s.	d.
For lead .....	100	9	9
For timber .....	42	4	2
For iron .....	2	17	8
	<hr/>		
	£145	11	7
	<hr/>		

Thus fell this renowned and princely fortress, having been in succession the stronghold of the hardy Saxons; the mansion of the brave and warlike Lascies; the turreted Palace of the aspiring Earls and Dukes of Lancaster; a continual scene of bloodshed and infamy, and the last resource of vanquished royalty.

Dr. Bramhall, who, after the restoration, was made Primate of England, was a native of this place. Thomas de Castleford, a Monkish Historian, was a brother of the Dominican Convent; and Dr. Johnson, a Physician and eminent Antiquarian, was a resident in this Town. Pontefract gives the title of Earl to the family of Fermor, who are styled Earls of Pontefract.

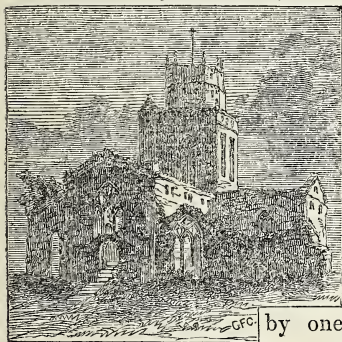
This Castle was sometimes called *Snorre Castle*, and contained eight Round Towers, with a large Dungeon containing six chambers. The Tower now standing was called the *Round Tower*; part of *Swillington Tower* is also remaining, directly opposite the New Road to Monkhill Station; between this and the Round Tower, stood the *Red Tower* and the *Treasurer's* or *Pix's Tower*. Beyond Swillington Tower in rotation came the *Queen's Tower*, the *King's Tower*, and the *Constable's Tower*. The *Barbican* fronted Baghill, upon which rock, Major General Lambert's

fort stood. *Cromwell's Fort* was opposite to Swillington Tower.

The space of ground occupied by this stupendous fortress was about seven acres, which is now principally garden ground.

### All Saints' Church.

The next object, worthy of notice, is the *Church of*



*All Saints*, or as it was formerly called "*The Minster of the Moors*," which is situate a little east of the Castle, and near which, at one time, was the most respectable part of the town. It is said to have been founded

by one of the Lascies, styled Robert de Pontefract, who granted it to the Prior and Monks of St. John the Evangelist of Pontefract, and thus it became appropriated to this Monastery.

Its extent from east to west is fifty-three yards, and from north to south, twenty-seven yards ; and it is enclosed by a stone wall, which bounds the burial ground in the figure or form of a coffin.

'It hath a double chancel, but no outward door ; a cross ile west of this, dividing the body from the chancel, which projects several yards beyond the body, which hath three iles.' The roofs of these side aisles were much lower than that of the nave, and formed a kind of pent-house, similar to our old Parish Churches. On the corbels, from which spring the arches of the windows, are carved the heads of

warriors, abbotts, lions, and other devices. From the arches of the columns which formed the aisles, a wall extended upwards, and contained a range of windows, for the purpose of giving light to the nave; round which ran a parapet wall, so that any person might walk in safety along the roof. 'In the cross ile, at the south and north ends, were two large doors over-against one another, in the middle of which rose a noble gallant square, (formerly the belfry,) erected several yards above the roof of the Church, where now hangeth only a gallant sweet bell.'

In this square once hung twelve bells. Each corner was enriched with the sculptured figure of the four Evangelists, and from its centre rose a curious and magnificent lantern 'whose finances of the several angles were adorned with images of the Apostles.' During the siege of the fortress of Pontefract, the interior and roof were much damaged, as well as the lantern, which suffered so great injury from Cromwell's cannon, 'that it was blown down by a raging tempest some short time afterwards.' The Parliament of 1649, allotted £1000 out of the monies arising from the sale of the materials of the Castle, towards the repairing of it, and accordingly the north transept was re-edified; and in the place of the lantern was built an octagon, adorned at each side with ornamental spires, but 'was much inferior to the lantern.' In the north west corner of the square tower, still standing, is a singular and rare case inclosing two pair of stairs, both of which wind round the same centre, and terminate in the same circumference, having their different entrances below, and their several landings above.

On the north and south sides, towards the western end of the Church, are two other large doors, opposing each other: so that for number of doors in the nave, and none



in the chancel; for that noble part of the tower, which still remains; for the long-extended cross aisle, and unusual double staircase, and in the richness of its decorations and ornaments, it surpassed most of the Parish Churches of its day.

The eastern and western ends were adorned by beautifully illuminated windows of the Gothic style of architecture, of very large dimensions, and formed of extremely slender mullions. The cross aisle and chancel seem to have been only appropriated for Divine Service, and the whole western end, with its beautifully pointed arches, formed a noble entrance to it, resembling in some measure the Cathedrals of the present day.

During the siege of the Castle, this Church was rendered so ruinous by the Besieger's Cannon, that it became necessary to perform Divine Service in St. Giles's Church, formerly a Chapel-of-Ease.

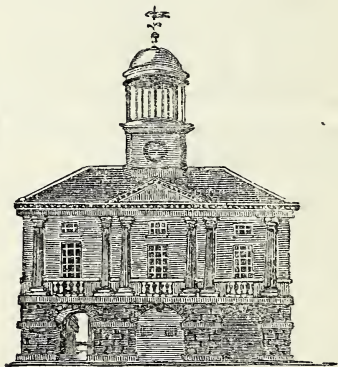
All Saints' was considerably repaired a few years ago, and Divine Service performed therein regularly, although now it is very appropriately termed "*Beauty in distress.*"

There are many other ancient relics and associations connected with Old Pontefract, which would well repay the search of the curious, such as *The Monument, Hermitage and Ancient Grot, &c.*, ample details of which may be found in *Fox's History of Pontefract*.

Pontefract, which enjoyed various privileges under the Charters of the Lords of the honour and manor, was first incorporated by Royal Charter in the reign of Richard III. which was confirmed by Henry VII. and Edward VI.; and by James I. in the 4th year of his reign. The Charter was enlarged in the 29th of Charles II. and a new one was granted by James II. in the 1st year of his reign; but the

Government is now vested in a Mayor, four Aldermen, and twelve Councillors, by the Act of the 5th and 6th of William IV. cap 76. ; the municipal Borough is co-extensive with the township of Pontefract, and the number of Magistrates is eight. The town exercised the elective franchise in the 23rd and 26th of Edward I. from which period it was discontinued till revived by James I. in 1621, since which time it has regularly returned two members to Parliament ; the Mayor is returning officer.

The General Quarter Sessions for the West-Riding of Yorkshire are held here at Easter.



The *Town Hall* is a neat building, erected at the joint expense of the County and Corporation ; the lower part forms a prison, and above is the Hall which is conveniently arranged for the Borough Courts, and occasionally used as an assembly room ; the front of the building is ornamented with pilasters of the *Doric* order, surmounted by a cornice.

The *Court House*, erected at the expense of the County, is a handsome structure of freestone in the *Grecian* style, and of the *Ionic* order, and is in every respect adapted to the County business.



A *Convent of Carmelites* was established in the year 1257, by Edmund Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, but not even the site can be traced. A *Convent of Dominican or Black Friars* was instituted in 1266, by Simon Pyper, in a place now called *Friar Wood*, and at the Dissolution consisted of a prior, seven brethren, and a novice. There was also an *Hospital for Lazars*, dedicated to *St. Mary Magdelene*, of uncertain foundation, to which, in 1286, Archbishop Romain was a benefactor, and of which the site is supposed to be occupied by *Franks' Hospital*; and an *Hospital* for a Chaplain and eight poor brethren, established in the reign of Edward III. by William La Tabourere is by some identified with the *Bede House*.

Opposite Monkhill Station the Methley Branch of this Railway commences. *Monkhill* is so called from a Priory of Benedictine Monks being founded here.

A short distance beyond All Saints' Church, on the left hand side of the road leading to Knottingley, in a plot of ground now called the *Grange*, stand the remains of the *Priory of Saint John the Evangelist, or Monastery of Black Monks*, founded by Robert de Pontefract, son of Hyldebert de Lascy, at the instigation of Archbishop Thurston, about the year 1090, in the reign of William Rufus; and is supposed to have contained at one period an establishment of 200 individuals, which was dedicated to St. John the Evangelist and Apostle, their tutelar patron, and was founded for the health of the soul of William the Conqueror, as also for the souls of Hyldebert or Ilbert, and Hawyse, the parents of Robert, and of all his ancestors and posterity.

Immediately on leaving Monkhill Station on our way eastward, we come in close contact with the *New Hall*, or as it is now called the *Old Hall*, which is totally unroofed

and stands on the north-east corner of the fortress of Pontefract, at the foot of a hill on the road towards Ferry-bridge. It is of a square form, adorned at each angle with turrets, and its style of architecture appears to be about the reign of Henry VIII ; although Camden in his *Britannia*, vol iii. p. 286, states it to have been built during the reign of Elizabeth, and to have been sometime the residence of Edward Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury.

Leland says, that it was formerly a Manor house belonging to the Pierrepont family ; and notes, that the estates of Robert Pierrepont, ancestor of the Earls of Kingston, included all the land contiguous to this place, as well as the lands near the village of Mexburgh, and the Manors of Northaneston and Southaneston.

In Evelyn's *Memoirs* ii. 225, in the diary of his journey to Pontefract, it is also stated to be the residence of a branch of the family of Pierreponts : thus—' 17 August, 1654.—Passed thro' Pontefract, the Castle famous for many sieges, both of late and ancient times, and the death of that unhappy King murdered in it, (Richard II.) was now demolishing by the rebels ; it stands on a mount and makes a goodly shew at a distance. The Queene has an house here, and there are many faire seats neere it, especially Mr. Pierrepont's built at the foot of an hill out of the Castle ruines.'

On entering the court, is an old gateway, over which is rudely engraven in stone, a coat of arms, having for its supporters, two Talbots ; and immediately on the opposite side of this gateway, is the principal entrance, over which is also the figure of a Talbot, and the date 1591. None of the grants of Edward VI., to Lord George Talbot, mention this mansion, although it is very probable to have been the residence of a branch of the Talbot family.

George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, gave in trust to the Corporation of Pontefract, £200 per annum, to be distributed in loans to tradesmen. It is stated, that the last branch of this family was a lady, who bequeathed the land here to Archbishop Dawes, whose only daughter married Edwin, Earl of Harewood, and thus it became the property of this noble family.

The rooms of this Hall were very lofty and spacious : in the upper story one of them was ninety feet in length. The roof was covered with lead, and from the top a rich picturesque country was perceived. It was occupied by different tenants as a farm house, until within a short period, when the lead being taken off, its timbers were exposed to the weather, and consequently became the prey of the iron-grasp of time. Within its precincts a neat farm-house has lately been erected by Mr. John Brice.

A Traveller on visiting this mansion, in the year 1806, thus describes his entrance into it:—The doors being open, I made my way in, not without that portion of tremour usual on such occasions ; which silence and the look of these deserted places inspire. As I proceeded from chamber to chamber, these unpleasant accompaniments rather increased, until at last I heard a noise. Here that struggle with reason took place, which all understand, and but few can satisfactorily explain ; therefore I quickly regained the open air, and that composure necessary in these cases.

After passing the New Hall, the Traveller may perceive to the left a hill called *St. Thomas's Hill*.

The Church of *St. Thomas Plantagenet*, dedicated to the noble Earl of Lancaster, was built on the summit of this hill, where he was beheaded, and stands on the north east side of the Castle of Pontefract. It is now entirely

demolished, and not a vestige remains to point out to posterity, *where the first blood of royalty was spilt by the axe of the executioner*. A windmill occupies the site of the Chapel, and the hill retains the name of St. Thomas, from the Earl having suffered there '*pro lege et justitu anglia*, A.D. 1322.

Near this Windmill great quantities of beautifully carved stones were dug up in 1841, and were removed by the Earl of Mexborough, as the owner of the soil; from the sculpture of the stones, the building to which they belonged seems to have been of Gothic architecture.

About a mile beyond the Windmill, and upon the road to Ferrybridge, is the base of an ancient cross, called the *Stump Cross*, ornamented with three arches on each side, measuring in length about two feet five inches, and in breadth one foot four inches. On its top is a square cavity about two feet in length and one foot in breadth. The shaft of this cross, which was about five feet in height, was ornamented with sculpture, and Browne, in ancient sculpture and painting, observes, 'that the sculptures which were on the shaft bespeak it Roman.'

At what period this cross was erected or for what particular purpose is uncertain. The Romans made their prowess manifest 'by their monuments and inscriptions, fastened into the walls of churches, and by many columns engraven with Roman work, &c.' And it was also customary with them to erect on the highways, pillars of stone, whereon they inscribed distances of their cities, &c.; whence the phrase "*ad tertium, quartum &c. lapidum*," to the third or fourth stone, signifying so many miles. They also had their *Terminus*, the god who presided over boundaries and land marks, and in honor of this god they held their feast *terminalia*. The christians also had their crosses

to mark the boundaries of townships and parishes ; and, therefore, though the shaft might be Roman, and erected by that people, as a memento of some victorious achievement ;—it might, after the introduction of christianity, be chosen to form part of the cross, on account of its antiquity, and the elegance of its workmanship. The stump cross answers as a boundary mark, between the townships of Ferryfryston and Pontefract.

The road near to St. Thomas's Hill is cut through the solid rock, and has acquired the name of '*Nevison's Leap*,' from the following singular tale :—' Nevison a noted highwayman of the last century, having committed a robbery in the neighbourhood of Pontefract, and being closely pressed by his pursuers, in order to make his escape, desperately leapt across the road, where the rock is cut through at the greatest width, and thus eluded for awhile, the grasp of his pursuers.'

The Bridge over the Ferrybridge Road, near the New Hall, is exactly 9 miles from the Wakefield Station. *Holmfild House*, the residence of Chas. Charnock, Esq. and *Fryston Hall*, the seat of R. P. Milnes, Esq., (who together with his son, have represented the Borough of Pontefract in Parliament for many years.) are situated to the left. We now pass in succession, *Dandy Mill*, *Stump Cross Lane*, and a portion of the great North Road leading from Doncaster through Ferrybridge, having most part of the way a delightful view of the Villages of FERRYBRIDGE and BROTHERTON, with *Byram Hall*, the seat of Lady Ramsden.

In excavating the Stump Cross Lane Bridge, large quantities of stone were removed by the process of blasting, and some very extraordinary circumstances were connected therewith. After an explosion, between twelve and

twenty frogs were seen alive amongst the solid stones, to the depth of four feet; many of the stones that were broken, were found to have been hollow, and were about the size of a cricket ball; this led to the supposition that the frogs must have come out of the stones, and a search was immediately commenced, when three round stones about the size mentioned, were found containing live frogs, there being no other opening in the stone, than a little hole, the size of a common nut. How they got into the stones is quite miraculous, and certainly appears incredible, but the information may be relied upon as being correct. The inside of each stone had a hard crystallized surface, and the Frogs were of a coal black colour with most beautiful eyes, and altogether appeared of a superior class to the common Frog. One of them lived three weeks after being taken out of the stone, and another only three days but they had no doubt lived for many years in the stone.

**Ferrybridge** was a few years ago a place of great importance, being situated upon the great North Road, and having an immense Coaching Traffic passing through it daily, to the number of between 20 and 30. The Inns being of the first description, and an immense number of post horses being kept, the nobility in passing to and from the North availed themselves of its excellent accommodations and stopped here during the night, which gained it a character of being one of the first posting towns in the kingdom; but since the opening of the York and North Midland Railway, the traffic has been entirely diverted. The Aire and Calder Navigation Co. possess very extensive wharfs for the shipment of goods at this place. Ferrybridge is supposed to derive its name from



a very fine bridge being built over the River Aire, in lieu of a noted ferry, the possession of which, during the Civil Wars was the cause of many severe conflicts between the rival forces of York and Lancaster. Numerous pieces of armour and old military relics have been found near this place.

**Brotherton**, anciently called *Broyerton*, was as we have before stated the birthplace of Prince Thomas (Thomas de Brotherton) of whom Margaret, the second wife of King Edward I. was suddenly delivered while hunting in the neighbourhood in June 1300. The young Prince was created Earl of Norfolk and Earl Marshall of England, and from him in the female line descended the Mowbrays, Dukes of Norfolk.

The parish is bounded on the south and west by the river *Aire*, and comprises by computation rather more than 2000 acres; the soil is generally fertile and the surface is pleasingly undulated, in some parts rising to considerable elevations; the substratum is chiefly limestone of a very superior quality, which is quarried for the supply of the neighbouring district, where there are many kilns for burning it into lime. Extensive works were established in 1840 by James Kelsall and Company, for the manufacture of glass bottles of every description. Facility of conveyance for lime and other produce is afforded by the river Aire and by the York and North Midland, and the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Railways. The Church erected in 1300 is partly in the early and partly in the decorative English style, with a square embattled Tower, crowned by pinnacles. The chancel is divided from the nave by an enriched Norman arch, and the south porch is also of the Norman style. In the

chancel is a monument to the Rev. Stephen Owen, Vicar, who was deprived of the benifice by the usurper Cromwell, and also one to the Rev. Charles Daubuz, a French refugee, and Author of a "Commentary on the Revelations," who was Vicar of this parish and died in 1717.

*Byram Hall*, the seat of Lady Ramsden, is a very handsome mansion, in a thickly wooded Park of about 200 acres. *Grove Hall*, the seat of R. T. Lee, Esq. may be seen to the right at the distance of about a mile and a half. *Stapleton Hall*, the handsome residence of Mrs. Barton is in the same direction, and was formerly the seat of the Hon. E. R. Petre.

We now enter the cutting and pass under the *Pontefract and Knottingley Turnpike Road*, keeping Knottingley to the left being about 11 miles from Wakefield.

**Knottingley** is noted for the excellent quality of Magnesian Lime with which it abounds, and which is in high repute for agricultural purposes, being shipped in large quantities to the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, &c. Immediately before arriving at the Knottingley Station, the Burton Salmon and Knottingley Branch of the York and North Midland Railway commences, and joins the Main Line at Burton Salmon Station about two miles from Knottingley.

History makes very little mention of Knottingley, but from its close proximity to Pontefract Castle there is reason to suppose that it played a conspicuous part in bloody scenes of the Revolution. On the banks of the Aire are the *Kings Mills*, which were erected soon after the conquest and which, though under other circumstances are still in use. *The Marine Villa*, the handsome abode of William Moorhouse, Esq., may be seen from the Railway.



There are some Malting Houses and a very large Brewery, belonging to Messrs. Gaggs, Carter and Co; also a Pottery belonging to Messrs. Kelsall and Co., in which Earthenware of every description is manufactured, affording employment to more than 200 persons; another on a smaller scale, in which about 60 persons are engaged: a Tobacco Pipe Manufactory on a large scale, a considerable Tannery; several Roperies; and various other establishments. The trade is much facilitated by the river and canal, and a steam-packet plies between this place and Goole.

Near to the Swan Inn is an ancient house, formerly a Convent. Archdeacon Dealtry, a Missionary in India, was a native of Knottingley.

After leaving the Station, we come to the Junction of the Askern Branch, which will be noticed in the succeeding pages. After passing forward a short distance, we cross the Knottingley and Goole Canal, having a beautiful view of a delightful country, the Villages of BEALL and KELLINGTON being distinguished about one mile from the Rails.

**Beall.** This place is situated on the south-side of the river Aire, and on the road from Ferrybridge to Snaith, and comprises by computation 1570 acres, including the farm of Kellingley, of which the greater portion is the property of Sir Samuel Crompton, Bart. A bridge crosses the river and leads to BIRKIN. A very curious Roman swivel, which was four feet underground, has been dug up here.

**Kellington** is a place of considerable antiquity, and appears to have had a Church at a very early period, which

in the reign of John was granted by the de Lascy's to the Knights of Jerusalem, and on the suppression of that Order was escheated to the crown, and was subsequently bestowed upon Trinity College, Cambridge; it is an ancient looking structure in the Norman and early English style, with some part of the decorative, and a low square eastern tower.

We have also to the left, a fine front view of *Park House*, upon rising ground, with beautiful woody scenery surrounding it. The Aire and Calder Canal to the right is here considerably higher than the Rails. We now arrive at *Whitley Station*, WHITLEY lying to the right and HUT GREEN to the left, but not in view. The Railway here crosses the Doncaster and Selby Turnpike Road. EGBOROUGH is the next Village in rotation, and is situated to the left of the Rails.

**Hensall Station.**—Having arrived here, we are 18 miles from Wakefield, 11 from Pontefract, and 8 from Goole; and it is about three quarters of a mile from this Station, that the junction will be formed with the Great Northern Railway. The excellent gravel found here has furnished ballast for the formation of about twenty miles of the main Line. Looking towards the left, we perceive the Villages of CHAPEL HADDLESEY, TEMPLE HURST, and HIRST COURTENAY, and to the right the Village of GREAT HECK.

**Temple Hurst.** This place derived the affix to its name from a Preceptory of the Knights Templars, founded about 1152, in which year the manor was given to them by Henry de Lascy. The Township comprises [about 700 acres; the Village is pleasantly situated on the river Aire,

and the surrounding scenery is of a pleasing character. There are still some remains of the Preceptory, with its fish ponds and moat; and also some small remains of a Chapel, distant about a mile from the Temple.

We have a most delightful prospect to the left for a considerable distance, and pass successively GOWDALL to the left, and POLLINGTON to the right.

**Pollington.** The Earl of Mexborough is Lord of the Manor of this place, and from whence he derives his titles of Baron and Viscount Pollington. N. E. Yarburgh, and others, have property here. The Township comprises by computation about 2000 acres.

*Coate Hall*, the residence of Mr. Bullard, may be seen to the left, with a fine front view, immediately after passing Gowdall; and at a short distance beyond that, is *Carleton Hall*, the family seat of the Right Honourable Lord Beaumont, in which there is a Roman Catholic Chapel, much improved by Thomas Stapleton, Esq., in 1774; who also built a Bridge across the river Aire here, on the road to Snaith, the Station of which place is now close at hand.

**Snaith** is a place of considerable antiquity, and at a very early period a Priory for Benedictine Monks was founded here, as a cell to the Abbey of Selby, to which establishment the Church of Snaith had been given by Gerard, Archbishop of York, in 1106; the Priory flourished until the dissolution, and was afterwards granted by Edward VI. to John, Earl of Warwick. Flax was formerly cultivated in the neighbourhood to a considerable extent, and conveyed to Leeds Market by the river Aire, but the quantity has much diminished of late

years ; an abundant supply of Potatoes, Early Peas, and Fruit, is sent to the Wakefield and Leeds Markets. The Parish is chiefly the property of Lord Downe, the Earl of Mexborough, and N. G. Yarburgh, Esq. The Church is a spacious structure in the later English style, with a low square tower surmounted by pinnacles, and a belfry of wood ; it contains a splendid monument by Chantrey, to the second Viscount Downe ; a marble bust to an ancestor of the present Lord Beaumont, and some remnants of ancient armour, with several banners.

The Town which is small and irregularly built, is situated on the south bank of the river Aire, on a gentle declivity. A few genteel houses have lately been built, which has improved its appearance, amongst which is the residence of the late William Shearburn, Esq. an eminent Solicitor. The river *Aire* passes close by the town, adding much to the beauty of the pleasant scenery which abounds in this neighbourhood.

Immediately after leaving Snaith, we obtain a fine view of that large and handsome mansion, with its magnificent Park, *Cowick Hall*, the seat of Viscount Downe. The next attraction to the left is the Village of RAWCLIFFE, which is neatly built round a spacious green, and the Inhabitants are partly employed in the manufacture of Sacking, of which there are two small establishments. The *Aire* and *Dutch River*, and the *Aire and Calder Canal* intersect the district.

*Rawcliffe Hall* is a handsome mansion, pleasantly situated near the Aire, and may be seen from the Railway to the left ; it is the seat of Ralph Creyke, Esq., a firm supporter of the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Railway, who is Lord of the manor, and a proprietor of a great portion of the soil ; and to whom, with his father,

the late Ralph Creyke, the country stands greatly indebted for the extensive improvement they have made in the process of warping the land, which process has brought into cultivation a considerable quantity of low marshy ground in this neighbourhood.

**Rawcliffe.** The Chapelry of this Village comprises by estimation 4258 acres, of which the greater part is arable, about 40 acres woodland, and the remainder pasture. The Church was rebuilt in 1842 at an expense of £1850, raised by subscription, and is dedicated to St. James; it is a handsome structure in the early English style.

We have now a magnificent and extensive view of the surrounding country on each side for some distance, the little Village of ARMIN, or AIRMIN, being in sight a short distance to the left. This Chapelry, the name of which signifies the "*mouth of the Aire*," is bounded on the north-west by that river, and is situated on the road from Doncaster to Hull. We have also a beautiful view of the Tower of *Howden Church* rising in the distance, with the Villages of ASSELBY and KNEDLINGTON; the noble ridge of mountains in the distance, forming a complete amphitheatre to the scene.

**Asselby.** This place in Domesday Book, *Aschilebi*, was held at the conquest chiefly by the Bishop of Durham and Earl Morton, also the Aislaby's had property here, and are supposed to have taken their name from this Township. It comprises by computation 1200 acres; the land is very rich and prolific, and the gardens supply large quantities of fruit for the markets in the West Riding.



**Knedlington** comprises about 940 acres, and includes the Hamlet of **Booth**, where is a Ferry across the Ouse. The *Old Hall*, a fine specimen of the Elizabethian style, was possessed by Sir John Gate, a distinguished Knight in the reign of Henry VIII. The Village is pleasant and well-built, and ornamented with some fine trees planted about twenty years since.

**Howden** is a place of great antiquity, and was chiefly distinguished for its Collegiate Establishment, founded by Robert, Bishop of Durham, in 1266, for Secular Clerks, and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Cuthbert. In the fourteenth century, Walter Skirlaw, Bishop of Durham, erected a Palace here as a summer residence for the Prelates of that See, the remains of which have been converted into farm buildings.

About a mile from the town northwards, is one of the Stations on the Hull and Selby Railway. The Church, (which can be seen distinctly from the Railway,) formerly Collegiate, is a spacious and stately cruciform structure, partly in the early, but principally in the decorative English style, with a lofty, square, embattled tower rising from the intersection, of which the upper part, raised by Bishop Skirlaw is later English. The west front of the Church is of bold and simple character, and a fine composition; and the east end, one of the richest specimens of the decorative style in the kingdom, has been made secure and preserved from further delapidation at a cost of £280, raised by subscription; three splendid windows of stained glass have been inserted, bearing the arms of the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Ripon, Lords Howden, Wenlock, Hotham, and Galway, and several landed proprietors in the Parish who contributed towards the ex-

pense. In one of the chantries also, P. Saltmarsh, Esq., has introduced two beautiful stained glass windows.

The chancel having fallen into decay, the nave was fitted up for the performance of Divine Service in 1636; the roof is supported by finely clustered columns and pointed arches. The *Chapter House* is a superb octagonal edifice, inferior only in dimensions to the Chapter House at York; it contains 30 canopied stalls richly ornamented with tabernacle work, exhibiting great perfection in the principal details.

Howden is celebrated for its great show of Horses, held in September, which continues six days, and is perhaps the largest in the kingdom. On the 15th, 16th, and 17th of April, is a Fair for horses and cattle; and on the 2nd and 3rd of October is a Fair for cattle and all kinds of wares.

*Rawcliffe and Armin Pastures* now stretch away to the left, while we are running parallel to the Dutch River and Canal to the right, which may be distinctly seen, beyond which nothing is to be observed but an extensive plain of waste ground called *Thorne Waste*. Culverts pass from the Dutch River under the Canal, opening to extensive drains, used for the purpose of warping a large tract of country to the north of the Railway; several acres of land have been cut away for the purpose of forming the embankment of the Railway to the depth of from three to four feet; by the process before mentioned, a portion of the above land, has already, within the space of one year, been covered by the alluvial deposit to its former level. The range of mountains stretching away to the sea make the scene peculiarly imposing in this district. The next object that attracts the travellers attention is the



*New Church at Goole*, which is just opposite to the Station, and is a very magnificent structure in the perpendicular style, built by subscription, for which the Navigation Company have given the site, besides supplying the stone and other materials to a great extent; it contains 1000 sittings, of which more than half are free. The first stone was laid on the 28th of June, 1843, by T. H. Sotheron, Esq., who besides subscribing £500 towards the building, has surrendered his right as Patron of the Chapelry in which Goole is situated, in order that it may be made a District Church, the nomination to be vested in the Bishop of the Diocese. The Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Railway Company have subscribed handsomely towards its erection.

One of the Branches which leaves the main Line a short distance before we arrive at the Station, proceeds to the Ship Dock, for the carriage of all descriptions of merchandise. The other which passes between the main Line and the goods Line, is for the Coal traffic, and terminates at a spacious Dock constructed for the use of the Railway Company by the Aire and Calder Navigation Company. Having been brought to a stand at the Station, we have now completed the distance from Wakefield to Goole of something more than 27 miles.

**Goole**, thirty years ago, was an unimportant little village, but now owing to the great exertions made in its behalf by the Aire and Calder Navigation Company, it has sprung up into a Town and Port of great commercial importance. The said Company obtained an Act of Parliament for the Knottingley and Goole Canal in 1820, which was opened to the Public on the 20th of July, 1826, thus completing the most important line of inland

navigation in the kingdom ; and in the following year the town was, by commission, constituted a Port for Foreign Trade. In April, 1828, the Brig *Stapler*, of London, laden with merchandise, cleared outwards for Hamburgh, thus commencing its business as a Port ; and on the same day, a Market for corn and provision of all kinds, to be continued weekly, was first opened in a commodious Market Place erected for the purpose. Since then its trade and commerce has steadily increased, and it may now fairly claim to be one of the first Ports of the British Empire, both for accommodation and dispatch of business.

The construction of large Docks for the accommodation of Steam Ships, was commenced by the Aire and Calder Navigation Company in 1835, and completed in 1838. Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary says : “The Harbour is situated near the confluence of the Dutch river with the Ouse, over the former of which is an ancient wooden bridge of three arches, connecting the New Town with Old Goole. It consists of an entrance basin 250 feet long and 200 wide, communicating with the Ouse, here 500 feet wide, by two locks, of which one will admit vessels of more than 300 tons burden : and by gates with a Ship Dock, 600 feet long, and 200 feet wide. having an average depth of 18 feet ; and with a Dock for Barges 900 feet in length, and 150 feet in width, having a mean depth of 8 feet. These Docks communicate with each other by means of gates and swivel bridges ; and the Barge Dock has a communication also with the Goole and Knottingley Canal, over which is a handsome stone bridge of one arch. The Wet Works consist of a spacious Wet Dock, and a large Dry Dock ; the former communicating with the Ship Dock, which has been lengthened for the purpose, and opening into the

Ouse by a Lock 210 feet long and 58 feet wide; and towards the river a stone frontage has been erected, connecting the entrance into the Lock with the entrance harbour. The Quays are commodious, and there are extensive ranges of warehouses for bonding merchandise of every description, one of which is approved as a warehouse of special security; yards for timber, iron, slate, and other articles; and a timber pond capacious enough for floating 3000 loads.

A patent slip for repairing vessels was erected in 1830; and every requisite accommodation has been provided for facilitating the general business of the Port. Between the Docks and the Entrance Harbour, are the Custom House and Excise Office, forming a handsome structure, of which part is also appropriated as Merchants' Counting Houses, and Offices for the Aire and Calder Company; and between the entrance harbour and the river Ouse, extensive Coal Sheds have been erected for the supply of Steamers frequenting the Port.

In the construction of the various works and buildings connected with the navigation, the Company have expended more than £1,000,000 at this place, and on their line of navigation to Leeds and Wakefield, since the year 1820. The trade of the Port consists chiefly in the exportation of coal, lime, and the woollen and cotton manufactures of Barnsley, Wakefield, Leeds, and Manchester, and the iron and cutlery wares of Birmingham and Sheffield; and in the importation of corn, timber, wool, and other goods.

The amount of the duties paid at the Custom House in 1821, was £61,599: the number of vessels of above 50 tons burthen registered as belonging to the Port, was 163, and their aggregate tonnage 14,640, exclu-

sively of small craft for the inland trade, and six steam vessels employed in carrying passengers and merchandise to Hull, and towing vessels into and out of the harbour.

The Town, which is situated to the north of the Docks, consists of several spacious and regularly formed streets, containing numerous well-built houses, with a Market Place; and from the uniformity of its style, it has a very pleasing aspect as seen from the river.

The Township comprises, by computation, 4,280 acres, of which upwards of 3,500 are in cultivation, more than 500 peat moss, and the remainder water; the soil has been greatly improved by warping; formerly the staple produce was the Yorkshire Kidney Potatoes, so much esteemed in the London Market, but it may be said to be now almost entirely superseded by the Scotch Red Potatoe. The old Village of Goole, extends southward along the banks of the Ouse, and consists of houses irregularly built.

The Poor Law Union of Goole comprises 18 parishes or places, 16 of which are in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and 2 in the county of Lincoln; and contains a population of 12,525.

The Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Railway, will, it is hoped, answer the most sanguine expectations of its promoters, and be another grand means of increasing the prosperity of this fast rising Port.

## METHLEY BRANCH.

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THE formation of this Branch has been proceeded with a short distance beyond Pontefract Park, and is expected to be completed in the present year, 1848. It is generally believed that it will be a most remunerative Branch, as it will form a part of the main trunk Line from London to Leeds. The following particulars will be found to be correct when the Line is opened.

The Methley Branch of the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Railway diverges from the Main Line near the Monkhill Station, having a delightful view of Pontefract to the left, while the *Halliwells*, a dense wood, the property of Thos. Bland, Esq., of Kippax Park, may be observed to the right. After passing forward a short distance, and immediately before we cross the Pontefract Park Lane, we near a Farm House to the left, which formerly bore the name of *The Upper Park House*, and in which some years ago, an atrocious murder was committed in the forenoon of the day, the particulars of which may be gleaned from the following narrative :—“ A servant lad returning home with his cart, near noon, and his foot being hurt by a nail, which came through the heel of his shoe, went into the house to find a hammer to knock it down. In searching for the hammer, he discovered blood in different places, and at last turning his head to the cellar door, descried

the body of Mrs. Denison in the cellar, which was then half full of water. He drew her out of the water, and laid her near the fire, and then ran and called his master, who was ploughing in a close at some little distance, with a servant man. On the alarm being given, that Mrs. D. was killed, Mr. D. hastened to his habitation. Mr. T. Oxley, Surgeon, was sent for, and considerably within an hour from the body being found, he examined it, but could not discover any signs of life, nor so much as the least animal heat remaining. It appeared that the murder had been perpetrated by a stroke with the crow end of a hammer, by which a deep wound was made in the forehead, and the body afterwards thrown in the cellar.

The coroner's inquest was taken, and every circumstance minutely examined, in order to fix the guilt of this foul murder on its real author. Nothing however occurred decisive. The servant lad, who found the body, was suspected, taken up and tried; but the evidence of the surgeon saved his life. He considered it impossible for the body to become cold in so short a space of time as had elapsed from the lad being seen to enter the house, and his examination of the corpse. It was his opinion that the murder had been committed much earlier.

Suspicion arose, from other circumstances, that the perpetrator of this nefarious deed, must have been either a branch of the family, or some one intimate with it. There was a mastiff in the house, which would suffer no stranger to enter, unless checked by some one acquainted with him; and as Mrs. Denison was the only person left in the house, it is not probable, that this dog should permit a stranger to attack her, without making a strenuous defence. As the dog was uninjured, and in the house when the body was found, it is natural to infer, that some per-



son, who had an equal command over the dog with Mrs. D., was the murderer.”

We are now crossing *Pontefract Park*, but how long the same has been a Park is not known ; it consisted formerly of one thousand three hundred and sixty-one acres, three roods, and thirty-seven perches ; but after the revolution, the Park was leased off to the Monckton family, with a reservation of the rights of the inhabitants of the Borough of Pontefract and Township of Tanshelf, to their usual gates and strays. It wholly remained in the possession of this family till an Act of Parliament was obtained in the year 1780, for dividing and improving this extensive district of land. By this Act three hundred and twenty-five acres were allotted to the Inhabitants of Pontefract and Tanshelf, in lieu of all their rights ; and provision was made for its cultivation and management.

The *Grand Stand* may be observed to the left, it is a very commodious building, and was capable of accommodating a great number of persons during the time of the races. The *Park Hill* behind it affords as fine a prospect as could be wished, for an immense concourse of spectators. The races were held annually in the month of September, and were generally well attended by the fashionable world ; but owing to the want of proper support, they have been totally abolished.

**Glass Houghton** is now seen about half a mile to the right, and is supposed to derive its name from a remarkable kind of fine sand being found in large quantities here, much used in the manufacture of glass. There are also Magnesian Carbonate of Lime Works and Coal Mines in the immediate vicinity.



After passing through the Park, the Railway takes its course between two hills, the one on the right is called *Hoile Hill*, the other *Mickle Hill*. *Ackton Wood* is now situated about one mile to the left.

**Castleford** may now be observed a short distance to the right; it has a Station situated on the York and North Midland Railway. Many writers suppose this Village to have been the site of the Roman Station *Legiolum*, or *Lagetium*, which is described as being crossed by a ford. Many Roman antiquities have been discovered here, amongst which was a *denarius* of Caraculla, with a lion on the reverse.

A celebrated author observes, "that the citizens of York being pursued by Etheldred's army, in 750, turned at this place and committed great slaughter on their pursuers. After the Norman Conquest, the Parish was given to Ilbert de Lascy, the heiress of whose family conveyed it by marriage, with the whole Honour of Pontefract, to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster."

The Church is supposed to stand on a part of the Roman Camp before mentioned; it is a cruciform structure with a tower rising at the intersection.

The Village is situated on the south bank of the river Aire, at a short distance from its junction with the Calder, the latter of which in 1698 was made navigable to Wakefield, and the Aire to Leeds. The united rivers are crossed by a handsome stone bridge of three arches, which was rebuilt in 1808, and connects Castleford with the Village of ALLERTON BYWATER on the north side of the river. The neighbourhood shares a considerable traffic, being through the junction of the two rivers, an important station in the chain of inland navigation, ex-

tending from the Ouse and Humber to nearly all the parts of Yorkshire west of Castleford, and Lancashire; it is also an intermediate Station for the York and North Midland Railway. There is a Dockyard for building Sloops, and a Dry Dock for repairs; many owners of small craft reside here; and among the manufactories and branches of trade, are a timber yard, oil and corn mills, several granaries, a pottery of black and stone ware, a whiting mill and several glass bottle works.

While in sight of Castleford we pass over the York and North Midland Railway near Whitwood Points. The Line to the left leads to Normanton Station, about two miles distant. After crossing the river Calder we form a junction with the Midland and York and North Midland Railways, which run into each other at this point

**Methley** Parish comprises about 3,336 acres of land, about three-fourths of which are arable; it is bounded on the south by the river Calder, which forms a confluence with the river Aire at this place, on the east. Some coal pits here have been lately worked out. *Methley Park*, the residence of the Earl of Mexborough, originally a castellated edifice, surrounded by a moat, has been much enlarged by the present Earl, and is now a stately and elegant mansion. The *Church* is partly in the decorated, but chiefly in the later English style, with a square embattled tower, crowned by pinnacles and a well proportioned spire; over the south entrance is a statue of the tutelar Saint, and the interior contains some ancient and interesting monuments.

*Kippax Park*, the seat of Thomas Bland, Esq., and *Ledstone Park*, the residence of Henry Ramsden, Esq.,

are situated to the right, and may be distinctly seen from the Railway.

The Village of KIPPAX is called in the Domesday Book, *Chepesch*; it is situated near the river Aire, and comprises in computation about 2000 acres; the soil is a light mould, resting on a substratum of limestone, and the scenery is picturesque.

The Township of LEDSTONE comprises by computation about 2000 acres; the soil is extremely fertile, and the surface beautifully varied and embellished with wood.

*Ledstone Hall* is a handsome mansion, anciently the seat of the Witham family, and subsequently of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford. After the attainder of the Earl, the property was purchased by Sir John Lewis, Bart.; and from him descended through Granville H. Wheler, Esq., to the present possessor, the Rev. Charles Medhurst. The Hall now occupied by Henry Ramsden, Esq., is most beautifully situated on an eminence, and surrounded by an extensive Park, inclosed with a stone wall; it was honoured on the 29th December, 1806, with the presence of the Prince of Wales and Duke of Clarence, who paid a visit to Michael Angelo Taylor, then resident here.

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In the event of a Second Edition of this Guide being published, the Author intends carrying the Description of the Line from Methley to Leeds.

## ASKERN BRANCH.

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The Askern Branch was the projection of William Moxon, Esq., of Pontefract, and upon the opening of the Great Northern Railway, which joins it at Askern, it will no doubt become the Main Line from London to Leeds, and in the event of such being the case, it will materially increase the value of the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Railway. It is completed to within a mile of Knottingley, forming a junction with the main Line at the Knottingley Station, it then proceeds for some distance through a cutting of a very heavy description, and the first object that can be distinctly seen, is the Village of CRIDLING STUBBS, which is situated to the left of the Rails; the Village of DARRINGTON being situated behind the hill, about one mile to the right. We are now running for about four miles through one of the finest limestone countries in the kingdom, until we come to WOMERSLEY Station, which is one of the prettiest Stations on the whole Line.

**Womersley** comprises between 5,000 and 6,000 acres, the soil of which embraces sand, loam, and clay. On the southern bank of the river Went, which runs through the Parish, are quarries of the finest limestone, whence a Railroad formerly passed over the stream, and ran through

the Township of LITTLE SMEATON, and met the new Line of Navigation made by the Aire and Calder Company; it was called *The Wentbridge and Heck Railroad*. The road from Doncaster by Askern to Pontefract, passes through the Parish. *Womersley Park* which may be seen to the right, is the seat of the Right Honourable Lord Hawke, who is Lord of the Manor. The *Church*, which can also be distinctly seen from the Railway, is a handsome structure, with a lofty spire, situated on an eminence in the centre of the Parish.

**Stapleton** is now in the immediate vicinity to the right, the seat of the late John Watson Barton, Esq., was formerly the property of Edward Lascelles, Esq., who succeeded to the title of Baron Harewood in 1796, and erected the present spacious and elegant Hall in the Grecian style, with a handsome portico of four Ionic columns, supporting an entablature and cornice surmounted by a triangular pediment. A portico of the Doric order, which now forms the principal entrance, was added by the Honourable Edward Robert Petre, who in 1833, sold the estate to Mr. Barton; the Park is richly wooded, and watered by a rivulet.

The Village of WENTBRIDGE lies a little further to the right, with some of the most delightful scenery in the country called *Brockerdale*.

Passing onwards we arrive at the Village of STUBBS WALDEN, which is situated to the left of the Line; LITTLE SMEATON being seen to the right at a short distance. The Tram Road which crossed the country at this point, was for the purpose of conveying the freestone from quarries here, to HECK BRIDGE, but the quality varying so greatly, the Line was abandoned, and the

ground it occupied, restored to a state of cultivation. The soil is light but fertile; and the substratum, generally limestone, well adapted for building, though not for agricultural purposes.

The Railway now crosses the river Went, with the Village of NORTON to the right.

**Norton** comprises an area of about 2,200 acres, of which, in the winter time, a large portion was frequently flooded, but it has been effectually drained, within the last ten years; the Fellows of Catherine Hall, Cambridge, are Lords of the Manor, and owners of land which once belonged to a Priory here, some slight remains of which are to be seen. We are now about two miles from ASKERN.

*Campsall Park* is the next object of importance to the right.

**Campsall.** The Parish of Campsall consists of the Townships of Askern, Campsall, Fenwick, Moss, Norton, and part of Sutton; and comprises, by computation, 9,700 acres, of which 1,470 are in the Township of Campsall, including the Hamlet of Barnsdale; the district, which is fertile and picturesque, is all in the Honour of Pontefract. Stone of good quality is quarried here. *Camps Mount*, the seat of George Cooke Yarburgh, Esq., is an elegant mansion in the neighbourhood, standing at the head of a fine lawn, in the midst of the most luxurious foliage. The Church is a large ancient edifice, and has some fine specimens of Norman architecture. The remains of a *Roman Road* may be traced.

Beyond Campsall is *Skelbrook Park*, the residence of the Rev. Thomas Cator; the Village of Fenwick is situated some distance to the left.



**Askern**, or as it is sometimes written, **Askerne**, **Askron**, or **Askeron**, next presents itself to view, in a most delightful and picturesque situation, on a rocky declivity; it is a pretty rural Village, and has risen of late years into a fashionable watering place, and as a place of resort for invalids, on account of the efficacy of its mineral waters. There is a large sheet of water here called *Askern Pool*, covering about seven acres of land, a few yards from which rises a *Sulphureous Spring*, highly celebrated for more than a century as a powerful remedy in scrofulous, rheumatic, and gouty complaints, it is also reputed for its virtue in dyspepsia, palsy, and pulmonary consumption. The *Pool* is abundantly supplied with fish of several kinds, remarkable for their yellow colour: it is circled by a gravel walk for the accommodation of the public; a neat brick building is situated on its margin, in which rises the spring most frequented; the waters are strongly impregnated with Sulphur, and both in smell and taste much resemble the celebrated waters of Harrogate, but when taken internally, differ materially in their operation, acting chiefly as a diuretic, without any of that cathartic power for which the Harrogate waters are so famous.

It has been observed that all water bibbers here, are compelled to have recourse to the addition of Epsom Salts to these, if they wish them to act as an aperient. It is not known when the Askern Spa was first discovered; in 1771, the celebrated naturalist Thomas Pennant, in his *Tour* informs us that *Askern* was celebrated for a sulphureous spring, the medicinal qualities of which were discovered by the farmers, who drove their diseased cattle into the Pool, and thus removed their maladies.

Dr. Short, in his history of the Mineral Waters of Yorkshire, &c. printed in 1734, mentions this water, and from



his manner of noticing it, it seems then to have been of long standing, and of well-attested efficacy, or otherwise one would scarcely have expected that, at so obscure a village, a "fine stone bason" would have been dedicated for the reception of the water.

His account, after speaking of a former sulphur water, is as follows:—"We meet with one of much greater note at Askeron, five miles from Doncaster, in Campsel parish, seven miles from Pontefract. It is exceeding clear water: it has a fine stone bason, and is inclosed by a round walk. It's stream is full of white thick sludge, which ropes like a decoction of *Althæa*. It smells and tastes very strong of Sulphur: it cruddles soap and Milk; turns silver black, —brass a blue copper colour. It retained its sulphur smell to a third degree of heat. It becomes muddy and cruddles in boiling. It is a very diuretic light water, The farmers find it of notable service to them in curing chaffed feet, saddle galling, horses or oxen galled in the yoke, or by loading, &c., mangy dogs, scabbed horses, &c. It has done some notable cures in inveterate strumous and other ulcers, scab, leprosy, &c. It is muddy white, with solution of silver; a clear sky blue, with tincture of verdigris; light yellow, with tincture of rhubarb: it is first white then cruddles, and lets fall a large brownish sediment. with sugar of lead; with oil of tartar and spirit of harts-horn, it is whitish, cruddles, and lets fall much sediment. It makes a strong ebullition with the acid spirits; with tincture of logwood a beautiful deep red; with tincture of galls, a muddy white. Five quarts of it exhaled, left three drams of white sparkling sediment, a dram whereof was a fine salt, which crackled on a hot iron; turned syrup of violets green; fermented little with the acid spirits, but struck the nose with a pungent smell. The rest of the

salt dissolved and set to crystallize, projected very fine crystals of nitre and marine salt; the last was the largest. The sediment here is to the water, as 1 to  $426\frac{2}{3}$ ; the earth to the salt as 2 to 1.

This Spa is within a few yards of Askeron Pool side, the water whereof is very hard, cruddles soap into hard flakes, yet bleeches exceeding fine, stinks in summer, abounds with pike, perch, &c. It has several profound pits in it, the depth whereof are not known. It is constantly supplied with water from these pits; never is less in the greatest drought, nor overflows in the greatest rain, except the mill-dam below is stopped up with sludge and grass. The soil on one side is all lime-stone; on the other side a white clay, half a foot deep; and below that a very fine white sand."

About 1750, the stone bason seems to have gone to decay, the well having become an irregular puddle, unclosed, and often contaminated by the washing of mangy dogs and pigs. And as marking the character of the times and state of manners in this neighbourhood, it is worth recording that Askern was then celebrated both for its sulphurous water, and for its *Wise Man*, Joshua Ivison, commonly called the *Askern Witch*, to whom the country people used to apply to have their nativities cast, fortunes told, &c., till at length the peace of the neighbourhood appears to have been so much disturbed by Ivison's predictions, that the magistrates interfered, and caused his books of astrology, &c., to be burnt.

About 1786, a rude establishment for bathing was commenced behind the stone bason, or rather more distant from the pool, and this site now retains the name of the Old Bath, as the well was become, as stated above, an irregular puddle. Soon after this, the well was defended

from the rain, for the sake of accommodation of visitors, by a straw shed, in which state it remained till about 1794, when the sides of the well were defended by masonry, and a neat stone building erected by the Lords of the Manor.

The celebrity of Askern now began to be more widely diffused, and two wells were used for the purpose of drinking and bathing, the one on the site of, what was before mentioned as, the old bath, the other taking the water from the enclosed bason.

In this state was the Askern Spring when the experiments to investigate its composition were commenced. In speaking of the two wells, in the following pages, I shall, to avoid ambiguity, call the one nearer the pool the *Manor Well*, and the other the *Old Bath*. Both are now furnished with bathing and dressing rooms, and those attached to the Manor Well are built on a regular architectural plan, and as viewed from the village afford a pleasing and elegant object.

The Village is built on the earthy magnesian limestone rock. The Pool is at the foot of the limestone hill, on the level plain which here commences. The bason of the pool, under which it is probable the limestone strata dip, is formed of alluvial matter, as also is the plain around. Near to the limestone hill, the soil of the plain is principally calcareous sand, with some loam, and more distant is silicious sand. Below the calcareous sand, silicious sand is also found, as may be seen where the recently formed drains are dug. Around the pool, and amongst the calcareous sand, irregular porous masses of testaceous tufa are interspersed, and near to the margin of the pool the quantity of this stone is so considerable as to form an almost continuous bed at the depth of about three feet from the surface, through which the mineral water rises.

From the inclination of the strata of the lime-stone rock, and from the situation of clay and gypsum embedded in it, it is probable that some fissure through the strata which dip under the pool, may afford a passage for the mineral water to rise from the bed of clay and gypsum to the surface, and hence give origin both to the springs of sulphureous water which are known to exist in the pool, and also to the particular one which is used for medicinal purposes. There can be no doubt but that all the springs, both of common water and sulphureous water, which occur at Askern, are derived from water which descends along the natural courses or strata of the rock. Two springs of common water may be seen issuing from among the rocky strata, and running into the pool, and these two springs, and all the wells that are used for household purposes, afford water of the same nature, viz., very hard, partly from the sulphate of lime it contains, and partly from limestone held in solution by carbonic acid gas, and this gas being evaporated when the water is boiled, the lime-stone is deposited at the bottom of the vessel, and forms that stony substance which is so much complained of as incrusting the tea-kettles and boilers, and also gives rise to what is sometimes here viewed with astonishment, that clear spring water should by boiling become muddy.

The sulphureous water is what probably runs from a distance along the clay and gypsum bed, and then rises through some fissures, and the probability of this is increased by the instance of a weak sulphureous water being obtained from this very source at Wadworth. We may suppose that one portion of the water which falls from the atmosphere on the limestone, penetrates to the clay and gypsum bed, and as water does not readily penetrate a bed of clay, remains in contact with it, running

along the natural inclined plane of the bed; and that another portion of the water does not sink so deep; and the one rises in the state of sulphureous water, the other in the state of mere hard water. The fissures through which the sulphureous water rises may be those natural and almost vertical rents, which are observable in the lime-stone quarries to go quite through all the strata, and the common water may rise through any partial disarrangement or breaks in the strata. That the mineral water may derive its origin from this supposed source will be strengthened when its composition is considered, yet it must be owned our present chemical knowledge will not satisfactorily explain in what manner the water obtains its sulphuretted hydrogen, though its elements exist in gypsum and water, but its not being explicable, is no argument against its being possible. Perhaps some substances may occur in the course of the water, which assist in destroying the balance of affinities among the elements of the gypsum, and this circumstance may be only of partial occurrence, or may require a great length of time, otherwise one would expect to find that all water rising from a bed of clay and gypsum would be sulphureous, which is not the case.

The wates issues through testaceous tufa, no air bubbles are observable, but the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen gas is announced by its peculiar smell.

The smell resembles the rincings of a gun barrel or putrid eggs. The mineral water is said not to be increased by rain, but as the bason, particularly of the Manor Well, runs over when it rises to a certain height, it is difficult to know how far rain may or may not affect it, and from the same cause it is difficult to ascertain the quantity of water which the spring affords, but an ap-



proximation may be obtained thus :—thirty individuals are said to have bathed at the Manor Well in a day, and each has required about 45 gallons, hence this well alone must afford upwards of 1350 gallons daily.

The feel of the water, on rubbing it between the hands, is meagre or hard.

The colour of the water, as viewed in the well, is a bluish black, but this is in a great measure owing to the colour reflected from the sides and bottom of the well, where some blackish mud is deposited. When it is fresh taken from the well, and viewed by looking down into a glass of it placed on white paper, it appears bluish ; and on looking horizontally through it, and comparing it with the common spring water, a slight degree of milkiness is perceptible.

A milkiness takes place in the water on standing about an hour, and a white film is perceptible on the surface. On standing a day or two, a grey powder attaches itself to the sides of the glass, and the glass round the surface of the water becomes stained with an indelible bluish mark. These effects are more distinctly seen in the water from the Manor Well than in that from the Old Bath.

The taste of the water is sulphureous and slightly saline, and leaves an earthy and somewhat meagre impression on the tongue.

The parts of the building about the well that are painted white, as also glass vessels in which the water long remains, become of a leaden colour, from the sulphuretted hydrogen gas acting upon the lead, which enters into the composition of the glass and the paint, and from the same agency silver in the pockets of the attendants acquires a brown tarnish, and the same is acquired almost instantly on putting a piece of silver into the well.

At the bottom and sides of the well is a slight coating of a bluish black colour, but it is too closely attached to the stone to be collected pure. Also at the bottom of the iron boilers used for heating the water, there is formed a deposit of considerable thickness.

In addition to this Spring, there are several others recently discovered. The latest found out is situated about two hundred yards of the South Parade Bath, in a green field, and is said not only to be the most strongly impregnated with Sulphuretted Hydrogen of any in England, but one which is disgusting to look at, as well as to drink, from its greenish tint.

There are several good Inns, the principal of which is the *Swan*, and many excellent Boarding and Lodging Houses.

The Contractors for the formation of this Line between Knottingley and Askern, are Messrs. Micklethwaite and Sons; the ballasting of which is said to be inferior to none.

The distance from Askern to Doncaster by Railway will be nearly six miles.

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Should it be necessary to publish a Second Edition of this Guide, it will be extended as far as Doncaster.



EXTRACT FROM THE

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE

ON THE

WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT, & GOOLE RAILWAY.

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“THE next important question of lateral communications in connection with the main question, has reference to the extension of Railway Accommodation to the Port of Goole. For this object no fewer than four schemes are proposed, viz. :—

The Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole ;  
The York and North Midland and Goole ;  
The Barnsley and Goole ;  
The Doncaster and Goole ;

in addition to a short Line from Goole to Snaith, the plans and sections of which have been deposited by the Aire and Calder Canal Company, who are the proprietors of the Docks at Goole, with a view however, as it is believed, of securing a certain control over so much of the Terminus of whatever Railway may be sanctioned to Goole as lies within the property belonging to them, and which may afterwards be required for the extension of

Dock accommodation. This is an object, which, if required, may be attained better by the insertion of clauses in the Bill of the successful Railway, than by the inconvenient arrangement of placing a short link of the Line in the hands of a distinct Company, who as owners in the Canal, must be expected to have a competing interest, and we therefore shall at once exclude the Goole and Snaith scheme from our consideration.

With regard to the other schemes, it appears to us that the importance of the import and export trade of the Humber fully justifies the construction of some one Line of Railway to the Port of Goole. Although this Port can hardly be considered as a rival of Hull, which must, in all probability, continue to command the greater part of the extensive Foreign trade to the north and east of Europe, carried on from the manufacturing districts through the Humber, it is one of considerable importance, whose trade, which has suffered much from the advantage afforded to Hull of being the sole point connected by Railway with the interior, is likely to receive considerable increase when a similar advantage shall be extended to it. For the coasting trade especially, consisting in the import of corn and agricultural produce for the use of the manufacturing districts and in the export of coal, the Port of Goole offers considerable advantages, and the trade carried on is very extensive.

The corn market of Wakefield, which is one of the largest in the kingdom, and the principal *entrepôt* for the consumption of a great part of the manufacturing districts, is supplied, to a great extent, by corn grown in the counties of Lincoln, Cambridge, and Norfolk, and shipped

coastwise to the Port of Goole, whence it is forwarded by the Knottingley and Goole, and Aire and Calder Canals. The quantity of grain thus passing through the Port of Goole to Wakefield is stated to be not less than 15,000 quarters per week, in addition to large quantities sent to Leeds, and in other directions.

Wool and other produce of the eastern agricultural counties is also conveyed by the same channel to the manufacturing districts in large quantities; and this import trade is chiefly balanced by an export of coal, lime, &c., affording return freights.

Keeping these circumstances in view, it appears to us that the principal objects to be attended to in laying down a Line of Railway for Goole, are best attained by the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole scheme.

The Barnsley and Goole, and Doncaster and Goole schemes only provide for the partial attainment of one of the objects referred to, viz.: the export of coals. They are laid out principally with a view of affording an outlet from the Silkstone coal-field to Goole, and although this may be a very desirable object, it is hardly sufficient to justify the expenditure of the large sums required, when the same object may be attained almost equally well, in addition to others equally important, by another communication.

The Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole scheme, in connexion with the main line from London, *viâ* Cambridge and Lincoln to York, will accomplish the following objects:

1. It will provide a direct and independent Line for the largest and most important traffic existing at Goole, viz., that of corn and agricultural produce to Wakefield and the manufacturing districts.

2. It will, at the same time, by its connection with other Railways, afford a good Railway communication from Goole in every direction, viz., by the London, Lincoln, and York Line, to the Metropolis, and to the north and south; and by the Manchester and Leeds, and North Midland Lines to Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Sheffield, and the whole of the manufacturing districts of the West of England.

3. It will thus afford a direct communication from the nearest coal field, that of Wakefield, and one only a few miles circuitous from that of Silkstone, in addition to a communication with the Durham coal field, by means of the northern Lines.

4. It will accommodate an important intermediate district, including the borough of Pontefract, with a population of 12,000, and a considerable malting trade; and Knottingley, a place known for its excellent lime quarries, from which about 65,000 tons of lime are exported annually.

5. It will afford a good connexion from Leeds, the West Riding, and the manufacturing districts, to the main eastern line from London to York, and will supply the purpose of a necessary branch from that line.

These objects seems to us abundantly sufficient to

justify the construction of the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Line, the estimated cost of which is £365,000.

It is true that the same objects might be attained more economically, though less perfectly, by substituting for the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Line, either the Branch from the York and North Midland Railway, at Brayton, the estimated cost of which is only £105,000, or the Leeds Branch of the Lincoln, Leeds, and York Line, to Normanton, in connexion with a short branch to Goole. But the former of these schemes would give no accommodation to Pontefract, and the intermediate district, and would involve a considerable circuit upon most of the traffic in corn and coals to and from the interior, in addition to the delay and inconvenience of compelling all this traffic to pass over the most crowded portion of the York and North Midland Railway, the inconvenience of which has been already referred to in the Commissioner's Report; and through the Normanton Station, which is already the centre of such a large amount of traffic, and where the space is already limited.

The other scheme of the Lincoln, Leeds, and York Company's Leeds Branch, is also open to the latter objection, and is imperfect for the reasons which have already induced us to consider the main scheme with which it is connected as inadmissible, and because no Goole Branch in connection with it is actually proposed.

Under these circumstances, and considering that the traffic is likely to be sufficient to support a good Line to Goole, we have no hesitation in reporting our opinion that the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole Line appears to us to deserve a preference over the other competing schemes proposed for that purpose.

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